

September 2012

2012/2013 Season Kicks Off!



Far West Masters at Western Regionals in Big Sky, Montana

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From the President's Corner... Wishing For Average

By Mark Mirviss

After two seasons of record breaking snowfalls: the 2010 season a record for the most snow, and the 2011 season a record for the least snow, I'm just wishing for average snowfall this season. Our scheduling VP, Mike Braun, probably lost more sleep these past two seasons worrying about races being postponed and moved, than sleep lost during his entire career with LAPD. I know I spent many a hour the last two seasons on the phone with Mike, and emailing Deb Lewis, our VP of CTO and webmaster in an attempt to salvage, move races, and let everyone know of the changes in scheduling.

I think we have a real good schedule of races planned for this upcoming season, and it is now posted on our website. We have been trying to focus our races towards areas that consistently put on high quality events for us. There are always lots of suggestions on other places we can hold races, but when we get in contact with, (or is more likely the case) can't get in contact with their race director or any staff, that guides us back to our old tried and tested favorites.

I am in the process of scheduling a USSA Officials clinic or clinics for this upcoming season. We really need your help in this area. Our small and growing smaller pool of officials needs others within our organization to step up and help out by becoming officials and officiating at our races. I will send out an email blast regarding dates for an official's clinic, and our Fall Board Meeting. Remember, Officials receive free lift tickets for the day's races!

After holding the line on entry fees for our races for about eight seasons, our board has voted to raise our entry fees five dollars per race. This is still a tremendous bargain. Most of the club and college races don't get the courses and support we do from the ski areas, and they have to pay an up-front fee just to have the race.

Our agreements with the ski areas create a situation where we (you and I) pay an entry fee. This fee will now be \$30 for tech events. Out of that fee, the ski area pays us back \$5 per entry in what is called "head tax." That fee goes into our bank account, and the remainder goes to the ski areas. If you will look at the number of entries for our races, you will see that the ski areas are not making a killing on our races, to say the least.

We have decided to institute a new trial policy this season. If you bring a new racer to any of our races, you will receive a rebate on your entry fee for each race the new person enters that weekend. You must let us (me) know you are bringing someone new 24 hours prior to the morning of the race. We will have an email address on our website for this purpose. No phone calls, no exceptions to this rule. Also "new" is defined as someone who has not raced with us for at least three seasons. As you may have guessed, this policy is designed to attract more racers to our races and to our organization. This is a grassroots effort that you will be rewarded for participating in.

Finally, I would like to take this time to welcome our two newest board members; Linda Crowell, Secretary, and Dan Simmons, Treasurer. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members; Sandy Hogan and Mark Smallhouse for their years of volunteer service to our organization.

Remember, hope for average!

12-13 Schedule Highlights

Mike Braun has scheduled another season filled with a variety of racing – 10 Slalom, 9 Giant Slalom and 6 Super-G Races. And that doesn't even include Nationals at Big Sky or the

International Masters event at Mammoth! Again, nothing scheduled near December holidays, no back-to-back weekends, and a balance between Tahoe and Mammoth.

We begin on November 26 at the Masters Camp at Mammoth Mountain (see attached flyer), capped off with a weekend of Slalom and GS. Next up is Slalom at Squaw. January takes us to Heavenly for the Viva Italia! Slaloms; Sierra-at-Tahoe for GS racing; and Mammoth for the Rick Conrado Super-G Series, part of the National Speed Series. In February we return to Mammoth for GS races and then head up to Squaw for the Bernard Cup Slalom and GS races. Bridging between February and March is the FIS International Event of Super-G and Slalom in Mammoth. March brings the McKinney Cup GS and Slalom at Mt. Rose and Masters Nationals at Big Sky, Montana. We close out the season in April at Squaw for our Far West Finals.

HELP FOR THE UNRECABLES

Do you have any skis and bindings to donate to The Unrecables? The Unrecables is a local ski club for disabled skiers and also is the LA Chapter of Disabled Sports, USA, a 501(c)(3) Charity. This club is asking their racing friends, who buy new equipment frequently and must have some used stuff sitting around, to donate to a VERY good cause. and for a write-off.

Mono-skiers are in serious need of new/used skis and bindings. They require bindings where you can set the din VERY high.... as bindings should NEVER release on mono-skis. If you have any old (10 years or less) skis you can donate please contact Sigrid Noack, past president of The Unrecables at sigski@earthlink.net or 310-499-8181. www.unrecables.com; www.dsusa.org

Membership Registration Information

Enclosed you'll find this year's membership application. **Please remember, you must completely fill out and sign the release notice before you can race.** Please ensure that the membership application is completely filled out. Most importantly, I need to make sure that I have your correct e-mail address. Over the past few seasons, we've been able to give schedule updates and provide other pertinent program information via e-mail, making it easier for our racers to have up-to-date information throughout the season. We're also moving toward internet and e-mail distribution of membership renewals and items like the newsletter, so don't get left out of the loop!

Registration in the Far West Masters includes a permanently assigned racing bib, detailed race schedule, entry cards, and our newsletter. Send a \$20 check (\$25 if you elect to receive the newsletter by mail) payable to **Masters Series Ski Racing** with a completed application form to the address on the application **PRIOR TO OCTOBER 31, 2012**. USSA and FIS membership information can be found at USSA.org. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of the board members.

See you in November!
Marcie Pettigrew, Membership VP

Being a Race Official

By Don Smith

You all know officials perform a necessary and vital role in conducting our races. You are probably less aware of the requirements and training necessary, the time demands, and the financial costs and benefits of being an official. This article will help you determine if you would like to be an official and encourage you to consider it.

Our agreement with the ski areas is to provide the Technical Delegate and Referee for all of our races, and an Assistant Referee for speed events. These officials are all members of the race jury, which is responsible for all technical matters in the race arena. Some of these matters are to determine that the hill is adequately prepared, the safety features are in place, and that the course is properly set. The jury also deliberates and acts on any protests. The sponsoring race department supplies the Chief of Race, who is usually a senior member of the race department and is also a member of the race jury.

Officials are asked to be on the hill early on race day, at least before inspection opens, and sometimes when the course workers are preparing and setting the course. They inspect the course and work with the Chief of Race to make any necessary adjustments or corrections. After each run, the Referee works with the Time Keeper and the Head Gate Judge to prepare the Referee's Report listing any disqualifications. The Referee's Report must be posted as soon as possible near the score board, and the Referee must wait in the vicinity for 15 minutes to allow for racer protests.

To become a Referee, you attend a clinic which is coordinated by the Far West Alpine Officials Chairman. The clinic includes an open book test which is conducted and assisted by the clinic instructor. The Tahoe clinic for this year will be held at the Village in Squaw Valley on November 2-3, 2012. Check the Far West Skiing website, www.fwsking.us, for updates and registration information. After completing the clinic, you must upgrade your USSA membership to include Alpine Official status. When the paperwork gets completed, you will be listed on the USSA web site as a Certified Referee and we will assign you to work on races. After working as a referee for a number of races, you will be eligible to take more clinics and tests to become a Technical Delegate. In order to maintain your certifications, you will need to attend refresher clinics at least once every two years. If your certification lapses, you will be required to attend a clinic and retake the test in order to get certified again.

It takes some additional time and effort to serve as an official. Being an official at a race where you are also competing is a distraction. It is not clear whether this distraction has a positive or negative effect. Some of us are convinced that we have gotten some of our best results on days when we were also officials.

For many years, Far West Masters have been organizing and conducting our own officials clinics which emphasized the issues that apply to Masters races and are different from junior or open races. Many of our officials got certified by attending these clinics and taking the Referee test, with the approval of the Far West Officials Chairman. In recent years, however, a policy shift determined that our clinics were not recognized, causing some of our Referees to be decertified. We thus have a shortage of Referees and are looking for volunteers.

There are some additional costs to be an official, but there is also some compensation. It costs more for your USSA membership, but the Masters board has voted to reimburse the extra cost if you request it. Officials get complimentary lift tickets for races they work. The TD has a right to reimbursement for certain expenses as defined in section 602.5 of the USSA competition guide. However, the main pay-off is that you are making a contribution to keeping our program viable. As an official, you can still get a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment, even if your own run was not up to your expectations.

If any of you think you have the time and inclination to try being an official, please let me know and I will try to keep you informed about the upcoming schedule of clinics.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

By Deb Lewis

The fall issue of the Forerunner newsletter provides complete information on the upcoming race season. So how do you keep up with "breaking news" once the season gets underway?

The farwestmasters.org Web Site

The most important communication mechanism we have is the farwestmasters.org web site (<http://farwestmasters.org>). The web site is the definitive source for membership and schedule information and news updates throughout the season. News updates are usually posted weekly throughout the season; more frequently when there's late-breaking news about an upcoming event. Race results and seasons standings are posted after every event.

Membership Information

The web site provides information and membership information about USSA masters ski racing and the Far West Masters division. The **How to Join** page has links to the application forms you need; use the **Member Lookup** page to check on membership status for any racer. There's also information about training programs, race-oriented shops, and special member offers when available.

Schedule and Race Entries

The **Season Schedule** page is the focal point for all the information you need about the race schedule. The complete schedule is posted at the beginning of the season, with all available information about entries, fees, location, and organizer contacts. For each event on the schedule there are links provided for printing an event entry form or registering using the **SkiRaceReg.com** online registration system.

The news Email List

Email "news blasts" are sent to all members who signed up with email contact allowed on their membership form, as well as to anyone who's interested in our news and wants to sign up. The news@farwestmasters.org mailing list is an "announcement only" list – the list is moderated so that only approved information is sent; this is a low-traffic, no-spam list! If you want to receive the news emails, visit the **Communication** page on the web site for instructions on how to sign up; email membership@farwestmasters.org if you've recently joined but aren't yet receiving news updates. All messages sent out on the news list should also be posted on the web site **News** page, so if you think you may have missed something check the web site! Complete historical archives on the news mailing list are also available from the web site.

Facebook and Beyond

Yep, Far West Masters is on Facebook! Join the group for news and discussions – this is the best way to keep in touch with friends, exchange information, ask questions... It's facebook, the group is whatever **WE** make it. There's also a USSA Masters group, in addition to masters divisions groups from around the country. The **Links** page on the web site has links to other masters sites and racing resources. The ussa.org site is USSA's official web site with news, resources, and member services for USSA competitors. The ussamasters.org web site publishes news and results from regional and national masters events and includes links to other masters division web sites and facebook groups.

Far West Finals Recap

Congratulations to our Season Award Winners:

Top Ten Men:

1. Ara Papazian
2. Matt Savage
3. Mike Braun
4. Seth Cronin-Wilton
5. Erich VanStralen
6. Tim Stewart
7. Archie Monico
8. Doug Fulton
9. Mike Shklovski
10. Pierre Jeangirard

Class 12 Men

1. Gaetano DeMattei
2. Rowland Lohman

Class 11 Men

1. Martin Sulser
2. Carl Pomey

Class 10 Men

1. Don Smith
2. Don Merritt

Class 9 Men

1. Dan Simmons
2. Dave Garner

Class 8 Men

1. Ron Tanzman
2. Sam Crowell
3. Jeff Shellhammer

Class 7 Men

1. Ray Tulloch
2. Jonathan Garey-Sage
3. Klaus Klimpfinger

Class 6 Men

1. Dave Melton
2. Mark Mirviss

Class 5 Men

1. Archie Monico
2. Troy Griep

3. Jim Atkinson

Class 4 Men

1. Daniele Farnedi

Class 3 Men

1. Chris Adams

Class 2 Men

1. Brian Masson

Class 1 Men

1. Matt Savage

Top Five Women:

1. Deb Lewis
2. Linda Crowell
3. Lesley Marcacci
4. Sandy Hogan
5. Annette Mirviss

Rookie of the Year

- Carol Levine
Mihai Filimon

Most Improved

- Annette Mirviss
Lance Laney

Class 11 Women

1. Marietta Frinell

Class 10 Women

1. Sandy Hogan
2. Janet Mosher

Class 9 Women

1. Marcie Pettigrew
2. Sherrie Marco

Class 8 Women

1. Kathy Faris

Class 7 Women

1. Mary Feddis
2. Linda Crowell
3. Lora Spicher

Class 6 Women

1. Cheri Heringer

Class 5 Women

1. Elizabeth Kennedy
2. Kim Wentworth
3. Jodi Melton

Class 4 Women

1. Ingrid Braun

Open Women

1. Deb Lewis
2. Lesley Marcacci
3. Cory Ritchie

Open Men

1. Ara Papazian
2. Seth Cronin-Wilton
3. Erich VanStralen

the timing board after every run! This article explains how we get you into the starting gate ready to "Go!"

Submitting Entries

For many years, a race entry was made by filling out an entry form and mailing or hand delivering it to the race organizer. Extra lead time was required to allow for mail delivery and sometimes-slow mountain postal services, and you never knew for sure if your entry had arrived.

Two seasons ago, we moved to an online system, *SkiRaceReg.com*, which has been very popular and effective. Registering is as simple as checking the box by each race you want to enter. Entry fees are charged to the credit card you provide when setting up your account on the system. All credit card information and payment processing is handled by a recognized firm that is required to meet industry standards for internet commerce. To encourage use of the online system, there are no additional fees for registering online system.

Entry Deadlines

We ask (we beg! we plead!!!) that race entries be submitted at least a week prior to the event. We need to have a reasonable estimate of the field size in order to allow the race organizers to be able to put on great events for us. With the more efficient race setup process enabled by online registrations, we are usually able to extend the deadline for close of registration until the day before the event starts. For a typical Saturday/Sunday race event that means registration closes on Thursday evening (9pm PST for all you procrastinators out there).

The entry deadline for each event is published on the web site schedule page; it is also included on the printable entry form and posted on **SkiRaceReg.com**. Occasionally the race organizer will need to close registration sooner than the usual entry deadline in order to handle race preparation. If a stricter deadline for close of registration is required, it will be posted and we will publicize the change as widely as possible (*web, email, facebook*).

Late Entries and Day-of-race Signup

Once the registration deadline has been reached, any late entries the day prior to the event or at check-in on race day are accepted only at the discretion of the race organizer. Although not always done, organizers may charge a late fee. Late entries must be submitted directly to the race organizer. The online registration cutoff is a hard deadline – we need to have time the day prior to the race to handle the logistics of pulling online registrations into the race timing computer system. Far West Masters encourages our race organizers to accept late signups whenever possible – we want all who are interested to get out on the race course! But processing late entries is a distraction from all the other event preparation that needs to be done, so please get your entries in by the deadline whenever possible.

Cancellation

Far West Masters has always had a "torn check" entry policy in place to encourage early submission of race entries – there is no penalty fee if you need to cancel your entry anytime up until the registration deadline. This applies to both mailed and online entries. You are responsible for cancelling your entry if you are unable to compete. If you entered online, cancellation is easy and reliable – log into your **SkRaceReg.com** account and un-click the race to cancel your entry. For mailed entries, you are responsible for contacting the race organizer to notify them of your withdrawal. If you need to cancel your entry after the registration deadline, you **must** contact the race organizer directly. Race organizers typically are very understanding if a last-minute emergency or injury has forced you to request withdrawal from the event.

RACE ENTRY PROCESS

By Deb Lewis

One of the fundamental processes of our Far West Masters racing operations is getting racer entries to the race organizers so we have start lists and can run the timing on race day. And we all know how much we like having timing results, as we gather at

Entry Fee Payment

Once the entry deadline has been reached, you are committed and the organizer may charge the full entry fee regardless of whether you go out of the starting gate. No checks are cashed or online registration charges are processed until the scheduled date of the event. No entry fees are charged if the event is cancelled.

Exceptional Conditions

Occasionally mistakes are made in processing entry fee payments. If you believe you have been incorrectly charged, contact the race organizer to request a correction. If you are unsatisfied with the resolution, please bring the issue to the attention of the Far West Masters board so we can assist.

Far West Masters Job Opportunity!

Have you dreamed of a job in journalism? Maybe you would love to showcase your organizational skills? The position of Vice President of Communications is open. This job consists mostly of compiling our newsletter, The Forerunner, printing and distributing it. If you are interested in learning more, contact Ingrid Braun, and she will be happy to fill you in.

Annette Mirviss – Bronze Medalist at International Masters



New Racer Jeff Gray



photo by Sasha Glushenko

New Racer Roxy Paine



photo by Sasha Glushenko

El Presidente, Mark Mirviss



photo by Sasha Glushenko

Another Successful Race Completed



photo by Sasha Glushenko



MASTERS RACE CAMP WEEK

November 26 - 30, 2012

This is a week long camp geared towards the serious racer. Get ready for the competition season and the opening weekend of the Far West Masters racing. Giant Slalom & Slalom drills, progressions and gate training, including video analysis and timed training runs.

Monday – Friday 4 hrs daily.

Meet Monday 11/26 @ 9:30 AM in the West Room (Main Lodge). The daily schedule will be flexible and depends on conditions.

The coaching staff consist of coaches from the Mammoth Masters Team and the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team.

This year we are offering per day attendance, you pick and choose which days you want to train.

Coaching cost is \$ 70 a day (does not include a lift ticket), Sunday through Thursday.

Discounted lift tickets are available at the Race Department office.

For discounted lodging rates call 1-800-Mammoth, reference the group name "Masters Race Camp Week Nov26 - 30, 2012" or go online

<https://lodging.mammothmountain.com/v1web/Availability.asp?WCI=Groups&WCE=GroupSelect>

Group ID: ??, Password: ??

Please fill out the following information as legible as possible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone # _____ **E-mail** _____

Payment: \$ _____ **Check #** _____

Amex **MC** **Visa** # _____ **Exp** _____

Mammoth Gift Card **Mammoth Pass Cash**

(please bring the Mammoth Gift Card or Season Pass by the Race Dept. office on your first day of camp)

Signature _____ **Date** _____

I will attend **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri**

Mammoth Mountain Race Department, P.O. Box 24, 1 Minaret Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
phone (760) 934-0642, fax (760) 934-0613, email: racedepartment@mammoth-mtn.com
web site: <http://www.mammothmountain.com/MountainActivities/WinterActivities/RaceDepartment/>



**Masters Series Ski Racing of the Far West, Inc.
2012-2013 Membership Application**

All information must be filled out for your application to be valid. You will be charged a **late fee** if incomplete information causes your application to be filled out after the **10/31/2012** due date.

Name _____ Sex: Male Female
 Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Bib Number: _____
 (N/A for new members)
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Membership Dues and Contributions		
	Renewing	New Members
Membership Fee	\$20	\$20
Hard copy of the Forerunner newsletter (a Web Based newsletter will be available on our website- there is no fee for this)	\$5	\$5
Lost/replacement bib fee (\$15):		N/A
Late fee (if postmarked after 10/31/2012, add \$5):		N/A
TOTAL:		

Make check payable to: Masters Series Ski Racing
 Mail to: Marcie Pettigrew
 P. O. Box 7181
 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Roster Information	You WILL be included unless you specifically say NO	
	YES	NO
Is it OK to send news messages to your email address?		
Is it OK to print your name and address for members only?		
Is it OK to print your name and address for sale to vendors?		

For the USSA membership and competition license, please contact the USSA office, or visit www.ussa.org USSA Competition/Masters, P.O. Box 100- Park City, UT 84060 - phone number:(435) 649-9090

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE

I know that alpine, nordic and freestyle skiing are action sports carrying significant risk of serious personal injury, death or property damage. I also know that there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and risks which independently or in combination with my activities may cause property damage, or severe or even fatal injuries to me or others.

I agree that I alone am responsible for: (a) my safety while participating in competitive events and/or training for competitive events and (b) providing, utilizing and maintaining that equipment necessary for the safe enjoyment of my participation in such events and specifically acknowledge that the following persons or entities including Masters Series Ski Racing of the Far West, Inc., United States Skiing, the United States Skiing Association, the United States Ski Team, the United States Ski Coaches Association, the ski area, the promoters, the sponsors, the organizers, the promoter clubs, the officials and any agent, representative, officer, director, employee, member or affiliate of any person or entity named above are not responsible for my safety, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above. I agree to accept all responsibility for the risks, conditions, and hazards which may occur whether they now be known or unknown.

Being fully aware of the risks, conditions and hazards of the proposed activity as a competitor, coach or official, I HEREBY AGREE TO WAIVE, RELEASE AND DISCHARGE any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury or property damage which I may have or which may hereafter accrue to me as a result of any participation in competitive events or training for competitive events, against any person or entity identified above whether such injury or damage was foreseeable or not, including all such claims regarding the design or condition of any equipment utilized by me in such competitive events without regard to whether such equipment is specified or recommended by such persons or entities identified above.

I further agree to HOLD HARMLESS and INDEMNIFY all persons and entities identified above, generally and specifically, from any and all liability for death, personal injury or property damage resulting in any way from my participating in competitive events or training for competitive events.

I currently have, and agree to maintain throughout the time that I train and compete, valid and sufficient medical and accident insurance. I understand that this is my sole responsibility and release all persons and entities identified above from providing coverage to me.

I agree that I will accept and abide by the rules and regulations of the U.S.S.A. and any other rules or regulations imposed by the organizers of any particular competition. This Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk and Release shall be binding upon my heirs and assigns.

Date: _____ Signature: _____ USSA Number: _____