

Summer 2013

Far West Reclaims the Cup!



From the President's Corner...

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer, enjoying the warm weather and gearing up physically, mentally and equipmentally, (I just invented that word as I am allowed by the privilege of my high office).

Thank you everyone who attended our summer meeting in July, especially those from the southern regions of California who made quite a drive. We had a good meeting, a great bike ride, and I hope some adequate food.

I would like to take this time to get up on a soapbox (no short people jokes please) and encourage ALL of us to take the opportunity to better ourselves – physically. Not only will this make all of us less likely to be injured, but will also make every one of you a faster ski racer. For those of us lucky enough to have visited the US Ski Team's Center of Excellence, we have seen firsthand the emphasis (and money) put on physical conditioning for our favorite sport.

There are many ways to improve on our physical conditioning and I won't even pretend to be knowledgeable enough to suggest a "magic bullet" that will help every person. But this I do know, all of us are getting older. As we age, it is more important to stay in shape, not less important. What we could naturally do in the physical realm when we were 25-35 years old, now takes a considerable effort for most of us. So this message from me to you is to either start, or increase your efforts towards physical fitness during the time I call pre-season (last day on snow until the first day on snow of the following season).

Enjoy the rest of your preseason and see you when the snow starts flying!

Mark

Far West Makes a Move at Nationals

We brought 17 racers (Ingrid Braun, Mike Braun, Bob Davis, Gaet DeMattei, Jim Dugan, Mihai Filimon, Sandy Hogan, Pierre Jeangirard, Elizabeth Kennedy, Deb Lewis, Don Merritt, Rees Palermo, Ara Papazian, Dan Simmons, Don Smith, Tim Stewart, Randall Sussek,) up to Big Sky for Nationals, where we fought hard and reclaimed the Division's Cup. Far West has a special connection to the Division's Cup, as our own Bob Bernard was the driving force behind the development of this award. The Cup has been engraved, polished and is now proudly displayed at the home of Don Smith, who is arguably the heart and soul of Far West Masters.

Some notable achievements from Nationals:

Class Combined Champions

Gaet DeMattei – 1st Men's Class 12

Sandy Hogan – 3rd Women's Class 10

Don Smith – 2nd Men's Class 10

Tim Stewart – 2nd Men's Class 8

Deb Lewis – 1st Women's Class 7

Pierre Jeangirard – 2nd Men's Class 7

Mike Braun – 2nd Men's Class 6

Ara Papazian – 2nd Men's Class 4

Mihai Filimon – 1st Men's Class 3

Gaet DeMattei, Deb Lewis and Mihai Filimon were all named to the 2014 Spyder National Masters Team.

National Speed Series

Marietta Frinell – 1st Women's Class 11

Don Smith – 3rd Men's Class 10

Marcie Pettigrew – 2nd Women's Class 9

Tim Stewart – 2nd Men's Class 8

Bob Davis – 1st Men's Class 7

Elizabeth Kennedy – 1st Women's Class 6

Ingrid Braun – 2nd Women's Class 5

Ara Papazian – 1st Men's Class 4

Matt Savage – 2nd Men's Class 2



Deb Lewis, Don Merritt and Randall Sussek – Potato Winners!

Season Awards

Most Improved

Randall Sussek
Ingrid Braun

Rookies of the Year

Tom Bullard
Tatjana Polyakova

Teddy Cantanho Award

Elizabeth & Mike Kennedy

Top 10 Men

1. Ara Papazian
2. Mike Braun
3. Erich VanStralen
4. Pierre Jeangirard
5. Mike Shklovski
6. Matt Savage
7. Mihai Filimon
8. Tim Stewart
9. Jeff Anderson
10. Seth Cronin-Wilton

Top 5 Women

1. Ingrid Braun
2. Lesley Marcacci
3. Linda Crowell
4. Carol Levine
5. Deb Lewis



Ingrid Braun, Lesley Marcacci, Linda Crowell, Carol Levine and Marcie Pettigrew (standing in for Deb Lewis)

Goodbye to Good Friends

Our 2013 recipients of the Teddy Cantanho Award were Elizabeth and Mike Kennedy. For many years, Mike and Elizabeth have been instrumental in ensuring registration and check-in run smoothly at

every event. Without their unwavering and enthusiastic support of our program, we most certainly would have run into roadblocks and hiccups every race morning. Mike and Elizabeth are moving to the east coast, and we will miss them more than they can possibly know.



Mike Kennedy receiving their award

Election News

At our Spring Board Meeting on April 5, the following positions were declared by acclamation:
VP Scheduling (incumbent) – Mike Braun
VP Membership (incumbent) – Marcie Pettigrew
VP Communications – Lora Spicher
VP Chief Technical Officer (incumbent) – Deb Lewis

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Lora Spicher is unable to assume the role of VP Communications, and Ingrid Braun will continue until a replacement can be found. Also, our Secretary, Linda Crowell, stepped down from her position. Diann Laing volunteered to take over the office of Secretary.

FIS Masters Cup at Mammoth Mountain

Breaking up our race schedule was the 2013 FIS Masters Cup races, sponsored by Phillips 66 and hosted by Mammoth Mountain. This event included a large national and international field. The winners of the first Super-G were Pierre Jeangirard (Group B), Mike Braun (Group A) and Ingrid Braun (Group C). The winners of the second Super-G were Pierre Jeangirard (Group B), Willy Scroggins and Dasha Kadulova. We only held one slalom race

before weather pushed us off the mountain, but the event was a huge success and great fun for all! Big thanks to Far West racer Bob Davis for making this event happen!



Pierre Jeangirard, Ingrid Braun and Mike Braun

Summer Board Meeting

The Annual Far West Masters Summer Board Meeting and BBQ was held July 13th, 2013, at the home of Annette and Mark Mirviss in Olympic Valley. We began our day early at 9 a.m. with a bicycle ride. Mark and Annette led the ride, accompanied by Ingrid and Mike Braun, Jim Atkinson, Pavel Bosin, Mike Shklovski, Emily Andrews, Hamish Butler and some local riders.

The Board Meeting commenced at 2 p.m. and was well attended by almost all of the board and several Masters racers. The minutes from the meeting will be posted at farwestmasters.org once they are approved, and you can get all the details from the meeting there. Mark and Annette provided a fantastic barbeque, and I heard some guests stayed as late as 8 p.m.! Great riding, meeting and party – be sure to join us next year.

Scheduling Update

Mike Braun has been furiously working on next season's schedule. As usual, we begin with the Mammoth Mountain Masters Camp and races. I cannot divulge the rest of the schedule, as it is not yet set in stone. But rest assured, we will have a balanced schedule with something for everyone. A preliminary schedule was revealed

at the July Board Meeting, but you will have to wait until the Fall Newsletter for the final schedule.

Summing It All Up

Excerpted from the USSA Masters National Spring Newsletter:

Way back in November we kicked off our season with the Masters Camp at Mammoth Mountain. Many members seized this annual opportunity to get back on skis and in the gates under the keen instructive eye of Coaches Pierre Jeangirard and Tom Peterson. An early snowstorm pushed back our scheduled races from the first weekend in December to the next weekend, but we put our skills to test on two slaloms and one GS. We quickly followed up that great opening with two slaloms. Originally slated to be at Squaw Valley, weather and snow conditions forced a move to their sister resort, Alpine Meadows. Alpine ably handled the short-notice change and provided awesome courses on the favorite slalom run of many, Kangaroo.

After enjoying a snowy and cold holiday break, we resumed racing in January with the Viva Italia! slaloms at Heavenly Valley on a Friday. The Viva Italia Cup is sponsored by John Giannotti and is awarded to the top male and female racers in the first race, utilizing an age handicapping formula. The 2013 Viva Italia winners were Deb Lewis and Ara Papazian. Deb has won this trophy several times, but this was Ara's first time to claim the cup. From Heavenly we traveled a little bit west for a weekend of GS racing at Sierra at Tahoe.

Late January brought us back to Mammoth Mountain for some fast skiing. The Rick Conrado Super-G series of four races included two National Speed Series races. These races honor Rick Conrado, a Far West Masters racer who loved to race and was taken from us far too soon. We stayed at Mammoth Mountain for the next set of GS races in early February. In late February we headed up to Squaw Valley for the Bernard Cup. The Bernard Cup is awarded to the fastest man and woman in the overall standings of the weekend's races, handicapped by age. The 2013 Bernard Cup winners were Tim Stewart and Ingrid Braun, both first time winners of this coveted cup.

Before Nationals, we fought for the McKinney Cup at Mount Rose. After a slalom and a GS, Carol Levine and Matt Savage were declared the newest recipients of the McKinney Cup. This was Matt's first win, and a repeat win for Carol. We wrapped up the season at Squaw Valley with a GS and slalom to give everyone a final opportunity to score some points in their class and vie

for a leader bib. We wrapped up the season at Squaw Valley with a GS and slalom to give everyone a final opportunity to score some points in their class and vie for a leader bib.

Squaw Valley – Bernard Cup Slalom

Photography by Marc Flax



Gary Erickson



Ray Tulloch



Don Smith



Eddie Mozen



Dean Larson

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

Far West Masters Board of Directors, 2012-2013

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www.farwestmasters.org

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