



The FORERUNNER

FAR WEST MASTERS

2014 End of Season Edition



From the President's Corner...

By Mark Mirviss

As another year of ski racing comes to an end, (there is always Mt. Hood and Chile!) I would like to thank all of you who participated in our racing series this season. I would also like to give out a special shout of thanks to all of you who volunteer to make this whole thing happen! You all know who you are, so I won't name names out of fear of inadvertently forgetting someone.

This was a challenging season for us with either not enough snow, or too much snow causing cancellation of some (but not many) of our races. All and all however, it was a much better year to have been a racer, than a free skier. Please tell, and convince, all of your friends that only free ski, of this truth, as we need new members and new blood in this organization.

As for needing new blood, we will be getting an infusion very shortly. I've been proud and honored to have been your president for the last four seasons, but I'm also glad Dan Simmons has decided to run for the office I will be stepping down from. Dan and his political action fundraising machine has raised so much money that I doubt he can be defeated! Please give Dan all of the help you have given me, (and maybe even a bit more) as he is the volunteer that will hopefully provide us with the guidance we need, and the direction you want.

Thanks

Mark



Far West Masters Scholarship Program

by Sandy Hogan

The following thank you notes were received from scholarship recipients Lila Lapanja (USST), Matthew Spain (Mammoth), Megan Rescigno (Mt. Rose), and Sarah Barrett (Sugar Bowl).

Dear Eddie & the Far West Masters,

I am happy to share with you the joy, adventure and success I had this season while accomplishing major goals that have put me one step closer to my dreams of top-tier World Cup racing!

My NorAm season began with two top-10 slalom results in Loveland, CO against women who are regulars on the World Cup circuit.

I brought my newfound skills and abilities to the European Cup level and had strong results against an unforgiving field.

I continued to trust myself into the NorAm finals in March, which began with the slalom at the Calgary Olympic Park. I went into the races with laser focus.

I had wanted to win these races--I knew I could--but instead I accomplished something even greater: I was completely unaware of my stance in the Overall slalom standings until the last day of slalom. When the realization sunk in that I was the NorAm Slalom Champion and that I had earned World Cup race starts next season, I kept remembering the goals and dreams that I've had throughout my entire career. My journey has been one of extremely hard work, dedication, perseverance and fortune. Winning the NorAm Slalom title was a huge milestone for me.

Racing GS at the U.S. Alpine Championships at Squaw Valley was the most challenge and enjoyment I have ever felt in any course, but the day of the slalom was the day that I was most excited about. Although I was nervous in the start, as soon as I hit the first slalom gate, my body let go and understood the movements it needed to make on that hill. My best run of my entire season was the second run, where I held my focus and determination all the way to the finish line. When I looked up at the board and saw my result, a sense of satisfaction I had been searching for all season filled my body and spirit.

My final goal was to bring my best GS skiing to a race for two full runs. That was the mission in Sun Valley, ID, where I wrapped up the season with a personal-best 14 point result, a result that secured my

advancement on the U.S. Ski Team and allowed me to peacefully conclude my 2013-14 season.

My success has been made possible by supporters such as the Far West Masters. The belief and passion you have in ski racing--and in me!--is something I carry close to my heart and use as fuel to bring my best to every day. Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Lila Lapajna

Eddie,

I just want to thank you and the Far West Masters for inviting me to your camp and awarding me the 2013-2014 Masters scholarship. I really appreciate all the work you put in to making the season great! I look forward to seeing you at one of the Masters races (I am still deciding on which one). Thanks again and happy holidays!!!

- Megan Rescigno

P.S. I am sending a thank you note to Gary Erickson as well

Dear Mr. Mozen, and Far West Masters Members,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Far West Masters Scholarship. I am very thankful for the support. It is an amazing feeling to be awarded and recognized for all the effort and hard work I have put into my skiing as well as my school work. I am so excited to represent the Masters program, as well as be a part of such an amazing group. Thank you so much!

MWSpain

Dear Eddie,

Thank you so much for the fun camp. I had so much fun and learned a lot. Thank you so much for everything. Hope you have great holidays!

Sarah Barrett

Season Finals

The final races of the 2013-2014 season were held at Mammoth Mountain on Fri-Sat Mar. 28-29. After a season dominated by warm, dry weather, our finals event was held in a "weather window" between some welcome late-season storms that are bringing excellent spring powder skiing to the Sierras. Friday's GS on Fascination was held on a beautiful, sunny day. Saturday's SL race, the final scoring race of the season held on the Powder Bowl/Ralphies

course, was windy but relatively sheltered as high winds ahead of an approaching storm system forced closure of the Broadway Express chair and eventually cancellation of the U14 SG race on the adjacent Fascination race hill.

Saturday evening competitors gathered with family and friends at the season banquet in Mammoth's Mountainside Conference Center. The evening featured a pasta buffet, a silent auction to benefit the Far West Masters Scholarship program, and season awards presentation of age class awards and leader bibs for the 2015 season.

The special season awards for most-improved racer went to **Tatjana Polyakova (W04)** and **Doug Fulton (M07)**. Tatjana impressed all of us with her improvement this year, making the women's open class consistently and skiing strongly throughout the season. The men's award was a tough choice, with a number of worthy performances considered including Tim Stewart for some amazing performances throughout the season, Sam Crowell for impressing all of us with excellent results in a strong second half, Troy Grieppe and Scott Sady for raising the level of their racing throughout the season.

The Teddy Cantanho Spirit of Masters award recognizing a competitor who exemplifies participation with cheerfulness and joy, as well as contributions to our program, was awarded to **Don Smith**, who competes hard every race and has made numerous contributions to Far West Masters as an officer, past president, and head of officials working many races every season as a TD.

Complete results are posted on the [Race Results](#) page along with the final [Season Standings](#) rankings for 2014.

Mt. Rose McKinney Cup

The Far West Masters were greeted with a warm welcome and two days of challenging GS racing at the Mt. Rose McKinney Cup races. The weekend opened on Saturday with a lovely warm spring day, a season-high turnout with a number of new racers to welcome, and good conditions on the race course as the firm foundation snow on the course held up well for both runs despite the warm temperatures. Sunday's weather shifted to cooler temps and light overcast, but the forecasted snow showers held off until evening so we had good

conditions and visibility for the race.

Mt. Rose put on a great event, welcoming arriving racers on Saturday with a breakfast buffet during check-in and following up with some delicious food at the post-race party both days. On the hill the race crew did an excellent job, earning plaudits from TD Paul Laudenschlager on their professionalism. Rees Palermo put his racing return on hold while once again serving as Chief of Race on his home hill and working tirelessly before and throughout the weekend pulling all the myriad pieces of the race event together. And special thanks to the many volunteers who helped with race day jobs including check-in, gate judge, timing, and posting the results board - great to have some of the Mt. Rose crew on the injured list out helping and we look forward to having them back on the start lists next season!

Complete results are posted on the [Race Results](#). Sunday's awards concluded with the annual McKinney Cup presentation, awarded to the top man and woman racer in the overall standings for the weekend's races - straight out total time scoring, fastest cumulative time wins! The 2014 McKinney Cup winners are Leslie Marcacci (W01), who celebrated her 30th birthday by dominating the women's rankings both days, and Mike Shklovski (M03), who posted commanding victory margins both days on the men's side.



Bernard Cup at Alpine Meadows

The 2014 Bernard Cup event, traditionally held at Squaw Valley, was moved this year to neighboring Alpine Meadows to take advantage of the better racing conditions available on Kangaroo. Despite the warm and dry conditions that blanketed the Far West this season, we ended up having a spectacular weekend of warm spring-like weather combined with an

outstanding racing surface that held up well for all competitors.

Race director John Black and the Alpine race crew did an excellent job and the course conditions were outstanding through 4 runs of SL on Saturday and Sunday's GS. Jackets and warm-ups were abandoned early by most, yet the race courses never got mushy or rutted. Hard to beat a beautiful weekend with fun racing!

It was a pleasure to have a number of new faces join us this weekend. We hope everyone had fun and comes back for more.

Complete results are posted on the [Race Results](#) page. Sunday's awards concluded with the annual Bernard Cup presentation, awarded to the top man and woman racer based on an age-handicapped scoring of the weekend's races. The 2014 Bernard Cup winners were defending champ Tim Stewart (M08) and Deb Lewis (W07).





The Forerunner

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

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