

2015/2016 Start of Season Edition and

Membership Renewal Packet



From the President's Corner...

By Dan Simmons president@farwestmasters.org

Lighter trade winds at the Equator are allowing the 30 cm. bulge of warm water that normally piles up in the Western Pacific to move to the east bringing wet weather to California—El Nino. Does it mean snow or just lots of rain? Weather or not, Mike Braun has put together a great schedule for the 2015-2016 season, including a return to Sugar Bowl in January for a weekend of slaloms. As always we kick out of the starting gate at Mammoth with two giant slaloms on December 5 and 6, then with the shorter skis at Alpine Meadows on December 19-20 for two slaloms. Fall is in the air here in Truckee and my broken clavicle (Mountain Bike) is healed. Can't wait.

Don't forget to plan for the FIS Masters Cup at Aspen February 4-7, and the USSA Masters Nationals at Big Sky, March 14-19. There's some important information from USSA, discussed elsewhere in the newsletter. Significant items include the FIS waiver of new helmet rules for Masters in 2015-2016, lower license fees, and online temporary weekend licenses without limit. If you are looking to purchase a new helmet for GS events or faster, be sure you buy one with the required FIS sticker. The newsletter also includes an article about our own Carol Levine, USSA Masters Woman of the Year, and the all-important information about membership renewal.

The Board is meeting at my house in Truckee on Saturday October 24. Items of interest include proposals for revamping the top seed start, limiting the number of forerunners, including the Heavenly giant slaloms (yes GS at Heavenly) in the Viva Italia Cup, perhaps some changes in scoring, and a BBQ. All members are welcome to attend. Please send me your thoughts on issues before the Board and any ideas you have for the Board to consider. I'll send a notice by email in early October with the agenda and a request to respond.

Finally, as of last November we are an Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) charitable organization. I'm still working with the California Franchise Tax Board to establish our California Tax Exempt status.

Remember to Bring a Friend to race with us.

Dan

Step by step guide to FWM Racing

Looking forward to the start of another new season of ski racing? Please take a few minutes to review this step by step guide to make sure you ready for the first races at Mammoth on December $5^{\rm th}$ and $6^{\rm th}$.

In order to compete in any Far West Masters ski race you must first complete these three easy steps:

- Hold a current USSA Masters License, or register for a temporary license. You cannot compete in any FWM event without this. This must be done online.
- 2. Be a current member of the Far West Masters, or a drop-in guest for the day of race. In order to compete in the FWM season standings you must be a current member. See the attached form on page 10 and mail by USPS to Mary Feddis at the address on the form by November 16th 2015 for renewing members. We are also working to arrange membership renewals on Ski Race Reg.com, and will send details when this is available.
- 3. Register for the races you want to participate in. <u>This can be done either</u> online at <u>skiracereg.com</u> or by mail.

Step 1 - USSA Masters License

A USSA Alpine Masters competition license should be obtained by all competitors participating on a regular basis in Far West Masters division races. A full masters license is required in order to compete in Regional or National championship events as well as for international masters competitions.

For racers who wish to compete only in a specific competition, a temporary day license may be obtained. Temporary USSA memberships are now unlimited in quantity, and may be purchased for \$15 per race day. A full season competition license is now \$90, which is a reduction from last year.

The deadline for USSA Masters renewal is October 15th, after which a late fee of \$25 will be payable.

For more information about USSA membership and competition licenses, visit the <u>USSA Membership</u> page on ussa.org.

Competitors MUST also provide proof of primary medical insurance coverage with their USSA annual or temporary license application.

Step 2 – Far West Masters membership

Membership in the Far West Masters is required if you race more than one weekend in the season. Your Far West Masters membership includes a permanently assigned stretch racing bib, detailed race schedule, our regularly published newsletter, and eligibility for season awards, along with access to members-only offers and features on the FWM web site. Full details for membership renewal can be found on page 6. We are also working to arrange membership renewals on Ski Race Reg.com, and will send details when this is available, but please remember that renewals are due by November 16th, 2015.

Step 3 - Race Entry Process

One of the fundamental processes of our Far West Masters racing operations is getting racer entries into the race organizer's computer system so we have competitor start lists and can run the timing systems on race day. And we all know how much we like having timing results, as we gather at the timing board after every run! This article explains how we get you into the starting gate ready to "Go!"

Submitting Entries

Race entries are made online at skiracereg.com. Entering online is as simple as checking the box by each race you want to enter, with race entry fees processed using the charge card information you provide when setting up your account on the system. Security of your information is paramount, and we can assure you that the skiracereg.com site is published using encrypted web connections to ensure that your activity and account information is protected when you use the site. A recognized firm that is certified to meet industry standards for Internet commerce is used to store all credit card information as well as performing the entry fee payment transaction processing.

Our procedure and fees for race entries are the same regardless of how you submit your entries. There are no additional fees for using the online registration service — we strongly encourage everyone to use the online registration system, as we believe it provides a better experience for both

competitors and organizers to streamline the race entry process. That said, we continue to support the traditional procedure of mailing a printed entry form with entry fee checks for any who do not wish to use the online process.

Complete information on the race schedule, race entries, and organizer contact information is posted on the farwestmasters.org web site.

Entry Deadlines

Please submit race entries 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.

While early registration is strongly encouraged, the more efficient online registration process, typically allows the entry deadline to be set to 1-2 days prior to the start of the event, to allow the organizers the necessary time for final preparations. For example, for a Saturday/Sunday weekend race event, registration usually closes on Thursday evening (9pm PST on skiracereg.com for all you procrastinators out there) to allow the organizers to complete race preparation on Friday.

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 http://skiracereg.com/fw. 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

We have an early registration deadline of midnight on the Sunday prior to the start of the event. Any entries received during the week prior to the event, whether mailed or online, are subject to a \$5/race late fee after the early registration deadline.

The board instituted this policy to reinforce the need to submit registrations at least a week in advance of the event and allow our organizers to properly plan and prepare to host our races. Because of our flexible cancellation policy, there is no penalty for signing up early – you can cancel without penalty anytime up until the entry deadline when registration is closed. If you're planning on coming to the race or just considering but not yet sure if you will be able to make it, sign up anyway –

you have until the entry deadline to cancel without penalty if you determine you can't make it.

Once the entry registration deadline for an event has been reached, online registration is closed – this is a hard deadline needed to ensure adequate time prior to the event to handle the logistics of pulling online registrations into the race computer systems.

Day-of-race entries at check-in on race day generally will not be accepted – you need to be on the start list when the final entry list is prepared the day before to be able to race.

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 to notify them of your withdrawal or to request a refund of the entry fee. Race organizers typically are accommodating if a last-minute emergency or injury forces you to request withdrawal from an event you have entered, but the responsibility is YOURS.

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 and no 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.

Updates to new regulations for Helmets

Earlier this year we notified all Far West Masters members of new USSA regulations regarding helmets for GS, SG and DH events.

For Masters racers, the Helmet regulations will remain the same as last year. The requirement for new conforming helmets is recommended in 2016, but is not mandatory.

That being said, if you do plan to replace your helmet for 2016, please make sure that your new helmet confirms to the USSA regulations.

Under the new regulations, helmets designed and manufactured for the particular event of ski racing being contested are required for all competitors and forerunners in all USSA events and official training. Helmets must bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH.Din 1077, ASTM F2040, SNELL S98 or RS 98. In addition, in order to attest that a helmet fulfills all FIS requirements for GS, SG and DH, it must have a conformity label affixed in a non-removable way, at the back of the helmet, in a position where it is not covered by the goggle strap. The conformity label must contain the text "Conform to FIS Specifications RH 2013", as shown below:



Helmets for GS, SG and DH must cover the head and ears. Helmets with spoilers or edges that stick out are not permitted. Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL. Protective features integral to the event being contested, such as chin guards on SL helmets are permitted. Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed on helmets in official training or competition.

Carol Levine - Spyder National Masters Team

Following a great week of alpine racing on Baldy for the 2015 Phillips 66 Alpine Masters National Championships at Sun Valley Resort, Far West Master Carol Levine was named as team member of the 2016 U.S. Masters ski team, and the Spyder National Masters Woman of the Year for her strong performances in Women's Class 9.

USSA Congress - Masters Update

During the banquet at the conclusion of the 2015 U.S. Alpine Masters Championships in Sun Valley, Idaho, Lisa Densmore Ballard, the new Chair of USSA's National Masters Committee told the room of 200+ competitors about goals as the new Chair:

- 1.) Recruit new masters racers, especially younger ones, while retaining those we've got; and
- 2.) Continue to hold (and improve) high quality masters events into the foreseeable future.

Since then Lisa has published her "Vision For USSA Alpine Masters Ski Racing". Lisa has analyzed recent trends, spoken with fellow Masters to understand what they want from Masters ski racing, and is proposing initiatives to update the image of Masters racing, make efforts to encourage increased use of social media, remove barriers to entry, and most importantly, to retain current racers and stimulate recruitment of new Masters racers to reverse a decline in membership of 17% in recent years. Lisa sees recruiting of more women to masters racing as a high priority, and also sees potential for immediate growth in racers aged 45 to 69, however, Lisa's number 1 priority is to recruit

masters racers under age 45, as these athletes are the future of adult ski racing in the United States!

Lisa has identified a detailed list of suggestions to help with recruiting, with a goal of increasing membership by 5% per year per the next 5 years.

New racers - Bring a Friend

Far West Masters is working hard to encourage new racers and we need your help. The Bring a Friend program will reimburse your race fee if you bring a new racer to the program.

There are a couple of requirements. To get the reimbursement must you president@farwestmasters.org in advance, with a copy to membership@farwestmasters.org and guide your new racer through registration. That person signed up on means getting the skiracereg.com, or registered by mail before the deadlines (there is no late fee for new racers), and walking the person through the paperwork to get a USSA temporary license by directing them to instructions on the web site and leading them through the registration and check in process on race day.

Please help the new racer navigate the sign-up and race day. It's important that people get signed up to enable the area to build the start list. The registration coordinator will confirm your eligibility for reimbursement. You can also help encourage a new racer to return by helping the person out through the day.



Far West Masters Ski Racing Series

2015 – 2016 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Enclosed you'll find this year's membership renewal packet.

Please ensure that the membership application is completely filled out. Most importantly, I need to 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. Check our website www.farwestmasters.org for more racing information including links to USSA and Alpine Racing

Note, membership renewals received after the **November 16**, 2015 deadline will be charged a \$5 late fee.

We're looking forward to another exciting season of racing. If you have membership questions, don't hesitate to contact membership@farwestmasters.org and president@farwestmasters.org

President
Past President, Vice President Officials
Vice President, Racing Scheduling
Vice President, Memberships
Vice President, Communications
Secretary
Treasurer
Chief Technical Officer

See you in December!

Mary Feddis, VP, Membership

Dan Simmons Mark Mirviss Mike Braun Mary Feddis Hamish Butler Diann Laing Ray Tulloch Deb Lewis president@farwestmasters.org mmirviss@farwestmasters.org mbraun@farwestmasters.org membership@farwestmasters.org forerunner@farwestmasters.org dlaing@farwestmasters.org treasurer@farwestmasters.org dlewis@farwestmasters.org Briefly, competitors MUST have a USSA license in order to compete, either a masters license or a temporary license – this is essential for insurance purposes. Competitors also MUST provide proof of primary medical insurance coverage on either USSA license application. The deadline for renewing with USSA without penalty is October 15, 2015. The late fee is \$25.

Competitors who race more than one weekend per season must also join Far West Masters, which provides benefits such as a permanently assigned stretch bib, a subscription to our regularly published newsletter, and eligibility for season awards, along with access to special member offers.

Eligibility

Men and women age 18 and over may compete in the Far West Masters Ski Racing Series. A <u>USSA masters competition or temporary license is required.</u> Membership in the Far West Masters is required if you race more than one weekend.

For USSA membership and competition license, competitors need to go directly to the USSA web site http://my.ussa.org/membership/start and complete the application process online or send your completed application to USSA, P.O. Box 100, Park City, Utah 84060.

You will need proof of medical insurance coverage for a USSA license, so have your insurance card with carrier and policy number available when you fill out a USSA license application.

Note: For racers who wish to complete only in a specific competition, a temporary one day license may be obtained online at http://my.ussa.org/membership/start and must be completed at least one day PRIOR to the start of the event. A one day license is \$15 and there is now no limit to the number of one day licenses per season. Note that full USSA membership is required for Regional, National and International races.

Far West Masters Registration – deadline 11/16/15

Membership in the Far West Masters is required if you race more than one weekend. To be a member you need to complete the enclosed application form and write a check for \$20 (\$25 if you elect to receive the newsletter by mail) payable to Far West Masters Ski Racing and then submit by mail to Mary Feddis, P.O. Box 7691, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. **RENEWALS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 16, 2015**.

Courses

Masters races are intended to be technically more difficult than club races or NASTAR. FIS and USSA rules are generally followed, and modified as appropriate for Masters racing. Two runs are mandatory for SL and GS events. Training runs are mandatory for DH's and competitors must start at least one timed training run to be eligible to race. No training runs are required for SG but are strongly encouraged.

Safety Requirement

Helmets certified for ski racing are required and must cover the head and ears. Helmets with spoilers or edges that stick out, such as helmet cams, are not permitted. Protective features integral to the discipline being contested, such as chin guards on SL helmets, are permitted. Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL. Leg braces must be worn under one's speed suit/ski pants or be otherwise covered. Starting in the 2016-2017 season, Masters racers helmet's must have a conformity label with the text "Conform to FIS Specifications RH 2013".

Age Classes

Far West Masters run in 5 year categories for Masters competitors age 21 and up. Your age class for the duration of the season is determined by your age as of December 31, 2015. Racers under 21 are welcome, but compete in separate classes and are not eligible for awards or the Open class.

Men and women race against their age peers in the following classes:

Class	Age Range	Class	Age Range
14	90+	13	85-89
12	80-84	11	75-79
10	70-74	9	65-69
8	60-64	7	55-59
6	50-54	5	45-49
4	40-44	3	35-39
2	30-34	1	21-29
0	18-21	00	Under 18

Class start order is generally oldest to youngest, women before men in descending age class order for all 70+ classes followed by all other women's classes and all other men's classes. A special Open class is formed from the fastest racers across all age groups. The top 10 men and top 5 women after the first run in SL and GS, regardless of age class, have the <u>option</u> to run in the Open Class. The women's open class will run after the class 6 Women's 50's and the men's open class will run after the class 6 Men's 50's.

Race Entry Fees and Registration

For the 2015 -2016 season, we are updating our registration policy to establish an <u>early registration</u> <u>deadline of midnight on the Sunday prior to the start of the event</u>. All entries received during the week prior to the event, whether mailed or online, are subject to a \$5 race late fee after the early registration deadline. Your are encouraged to sign up for the races at least a week in advance of the event. Because of the flexible cancellation policy, there is no penalty for signing up early – you can cancel without penalty any time up until the published deadline when registration is closed.

Complete event information, including entry fees and deadlines for each race, are published on the Season Schedule of our website www.farwestmasters.org as well as on the http://www.skiracereg.com/fw online registration site and in our newsletter. GS and SL races are generally \$30 per race day for registrations made before midnight on Sunday prior to the race day. DH and SG's generally cost more, and usually include training runs. We encourage early registration so that race organizers can be well prepared for an on time start on race day. Registrations on race day will generally not be accepted.

There are two options to register for races:

Racers can register online through http://www.skiracereg.com/fw for every event. This is option is strongly encouraged. There is no extra fee for using this service and if races are cancelled due to bad weather or snow conditions there will be no charge. You will not be billed until after the race is held.

If you prefer to register by mail it must be received by the race organizer by the Sunday prior to the race event otherwise it will be considered late. Please send a separate check for each race day. You may cancel a race entry without penalty up to the published deadline. We have a "torn check policy" for races cancelled due to bad weather or snow conditions.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING BY MAIL, please remember that an entry consists of one check for the race fee for each race day and an "event entry form" with check offs for multiple races at an event. On our website http://farwestmasters.org/services/raceentries you will find the race entry forms.

If you must cancel a race entry after the entry deadline has passed, due to injury or illness, you must notify the race organizer at least one day before the race weekend to avoid being charged for the race. Exceptions may be made in case of injury.

Season Awards

Racers must have at least 6 starts to qualify for a season award and must be paid members of the Far West Masters for the current season. First, second and third place awards are given for each men's and women's age class and the open seeds at the season ending banquet. Points are tabulated throughout the season based on race finishes. Racers keep points for their best results from 75% of the total number of races held, rounding up to the next whole number. For example, if 18 races are actually held, racers will keep their best 14 results. This means you don't have to attend every race to be competitive.

USSA Masters Regional Championships/FIS International Masters

Aspen will be putting on a full week of racing February 4 -7, 2016 at the Buttermilk base area and nearby Basalt. All Masters' racers are eligible to race if they have a current FIS license – which can be purchased through USSA at the time of USSA renewal or later in the year. Additional information is available at the USSA Masters web-site.

USSA Masters National Championships

The annual Masters National Championship is scheduled to take place at Big Sky, Montana March 14-19, 2016. Racers from the US and Canada compete in this event. To be eligible, you must qualify in your division by January 31, 2016, and have your USSA membership and license no later than January 15, 2016. A minimum number of race entries may be required, along with other criteria. Qualification requirements will be published on the Far West Master's web site and in the newsletter closer to the entry deadline. More details. Additional information is available at the USSA Masters web-site.

MASTERS SERIES SKI RACING of the FAR WEST, Inc. 2015-2016 Membership Application

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 16, 2015

All information must be filled out for your FWM application to be valid. You will be charged \$5 late fee if application is incomplete or posted after the 11/16/2015 due date. You will also need to complete your USSA membership and license as a separate application, visit www.ussa.org.

_____Renewing _____NEW Member

NAME

ADDRESS _____ same as reported October 2014, no change

have change of address since October 2014 OR I am new member

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I agree that I will accept and organizers of any particular cand assigns.							

Race Schedule

Last updated: Sep. 11, 2015



2015-2016 Far West Masters Race Schedule

http://farwestmasters.org

Online Race Registration: http://skiracereg.com

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	ENTRY FEE / LIFT	SEND ENTRIES TO:
Dec. 5-6	Mammoth Mountain (760) 934-0642 fax: (760) 934-0613	GS, GS Sat: GS Sun: GS	Entry: \$30 per race [*] Lift: TBA	Mammoth Mountain Race Dept. P.O. Box 24 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Dec. 19-20	Alpine Meadows (530) 581-8234	SL, SL Sat: SL Sun: SL	Entry: \$30 per race [*] Lift: TBA	Alpine Meadows Event Services P.O. Box 2007 Olympic Valley, CA 96146
Jan. 8-10	Heavenly Valley (775) 586-7000 x6208 (530) 542-5133	Viva Italia! Fri: SL, SL [Friday doubleheader Sat: GS Sun: GS		Heavenly Race Department c/o Lynda Killebrew P.O. Box 2180 Stateline, NV 89449
Jan. 23-24	Sugar Bowl (530) 426-6773	SL, SL Sat: SL Sun: SL	Entry: \$30 per race [*] Lift: TBA	Sugar Bowl Race Dept. P.O. Box 5 Norden, CA 95724
Feb. 4-7	FIS International Masters / Western Region Championships	SL, GS, GS, SG	Aspen/Buttermilk CO	See Masters Comp Guide or http://ussamasters.org
Feb. 20-21	Squaw Valley USA (530) 581-7188	Bernard Cup Sat: SL, SL Sun: GS	Entry: \$30 per race [*] Lift: TBA	Race Services P.O. Box 2007 Olympic Valley, CA 96146
Feb. 27-28	Mammoth Mountain (760) 934-0642 fax: (760) 934-0613	SG, SG Sat: SG Sun: SG	\$40 per SG [*] Lift: <i>TBA</i>	Mammoth Mountain Race Dept. P.O. Box 24 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Mar. 4	Northstar California (530) 562-3232	SG, SG [Friday doubleheader]	\$40 per SG [*] Lift: <i>TBA</i>	Northstar Attn: Competition Services PO Box 129 Truckee, CA 96160
Mar. 5-6	Mt. Rose (775) 849-0704 x 221 (775) 345-6709	McKinney Cup GS, GS Sat: GS Sun: GS	Entry: \$30 per race [*] Lift: <i>TBA</i>	Mt. Rose Race Dept Attn: McKinney Cup 22222 Mt Rose Highway Reno, NV 89511
Mar. 14-19	Masters National Championships	DH, SG, GS, SL	Big Sky, MT	See Masters Comp Guide or http://ussamasters.org
Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Mammoth Mountain (760) 934-0642 fax: (760) 934-0613	Season Finals and Banquet Thu: SG, SG Fri: GS Sat: SL, season Banquet	\$40 per SG [*] \$30 GS, SL [*] Banquet: TBA Lift: <i>TBA</i>	Mammoth Mountain Race Dept. P.O. Box 24 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Summary:	9 SL, 8 GS, 6 SG - 23 total 2016 entry fees: \$30 GS / SL races, \$	•		Far West Masters season scoring) er midnight Sun prior to event

Race information details, announcements, and entry forms are posted and updated regularly throughout the season on the web

Far West Masters web site: http://farwestmasters.org

Last updated: Sep. 11, 2015

From: Far West Masters Racing Series

C/O Mary Feddis P.O. Box 7691 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Forwarding Service Requested

Forerunner

http://www.farwestmasters.org

To:

In this issue:

- · President's Corner
- Membership Renewal
- 2015/2016 Race Schedule

The Forerunner

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

Mary Feddis

P.O. Box 7691 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Or email membership@farwestmasters.org

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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