



**2016/2017 Mid-Season Edition
February 2017**



From the President's Corner...

By Dan Simmons
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I can't remember a January with so much snow and so little skiing. Little did we know at the Mammoth event the first weekend of December that we wouldn't be able to get another race off until February 12. I had to go to Park City to ski on hard pack in the sunshine. I'm grateful for the heroic efforts of Mike Braun who tried to get the races off on their scheduled dates, but the weather would not cooperate.

We've got several events coming up, March 3 at Heavenly Valley and March 4-5 at Mt. Rose, then the Nationals at Mammoth March 13-18. The Nationals promise to be a great event. Sign up on SkiRaceReg (<https://www.skiracereg.com/fw>). There are links to race information on the Far West Web site (<http://farwestmasters.org/raceinfo/current/schedule>).

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the FIS Masters Cup and Western Regionals at Park City in early February. It was a good showing by Far West competitors with multiple podium finishes.

Dan

FAR WEST MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP PROFILE

Morganne Murphy-Meyers
By Sandy Hogan



Morganne Murphy-Meyers, a Jeff Wattenmaker scholarship recipient, is at Colby-Sawyer college. She skied for Squaw Valley, and was in our program for 4 years before going to college. Here's a letter from her, relating her recent experiences:

"I have finally reached my Senior year! This past year has been the most adventurous and fulfilling of my life. It began in July when I travelled to Australia for

my semester abroad, where I made lifelong friends and discovered a new independence. I travelled extensively throughout the country, including, Sydney, Melbourne, and Cairns, as well as outside the country, to Bali and Fiji. I still talk to the friends I made on a regular basis and we are planning a reunion next summer."

"When I got back from Australia I headed straight to Colorado for a week of training with my ski team. I then went home for an entire month and skied powder at Mammoth and Squaw! I had the best powder days of the past four years and I hope this coming season can live up to it! I was extremely excited to start the collegiate racing tour at the beginning of January, but unfortunately, three days before my first race I tore my ACL again."

"I took this obstacle and turned it into an opportunity to take a more rigorous course load, so I could have an easier senior year. I had surgery in March under an incredible orthopedic team at Dartmouth head by Dr. James Ames. Since I had already used my patella as a graft for my ACL reconstruction in 2012, we opted to use a cadaver graft. The surgery was a success and I could walk within a week. My physical therapy has been going well and I cannot wait to return to snow over Thanksgiving!"

"I finished my semester strong with a 3.82 GPA and received an offer to work with my professor on his research project about migratory birds carrying West Nile virus and other pathogens by studying blood gorges within hippoboscids flies. I will be working with him later this year in New Jersey to setup bird nets and catch hawks, eagles, and other birds of prey. I am so excited!"

"I am currently volunteering in Belize where we are traveling to remote communities and setting up day health clinics. I am not only gaining medical experience, but I am also experiencing what it is like to live in poverty firsthand. We have met several families where they are living in a small house without necessities like soap, a flush toilet, or beds. Hardly anyone in the communities has completed schooling past grade 6. This experience has been eye-opening and it has made me realize how fortunate I am to live in an industrialized country, let alone be able to afford to travel the world and pursue my passion for skiing and becoming a doctor. This trip is also helping me solidify I have made the right career choice. Even though I cannot change these people's lives, it is rewarding and fulfilling I can at least help them become healthy again."

"Thank you for everything you have provided for me over the past four years and allowing me countless opportunities I would not have experienced without your assistance."

"Thanks again," Morganne Murphy-Meyers

Upcoming events

The above average snowfall this winter has given us some fantastic powder days but led to many race cancellations from December through February. As we approach March we still have many great events, including three cup weekends, to look forward to before the end of the season, including:

- The "Viva Italia" Cup SL races at Heavenly on Friday March 3rd. This is a rescheduled event following the cancellation in January.
- The McKinney Cup GS races at Mt Rose on March 4th and 5th.
- The US Masters National Championships at Mammoth, from March 13th to 18th.
- The Bernard Cup/Far West Masters season finals at Squaw Valley from March 30th to April 1st.

We also have the Audi FIS World Cup races to watch at Squaw Valley on March 9th to 12th.

Far West Masters Scholarship Program recipients:

Where are they now?

By Sandy Hogan

Here's a brief recap of what a few of our previous scholarship recipients are doing now...

Brandy Barna is in graduate school studying to be an athletic trainer. She is a ski coach.

James Clifford graduated from Middlebury is working in San Francisco

Erik Jitloff is a fireman in Truckee

Tatiana Fields works as a Physicians' Assistant (PA) at Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee with Eddie Mozen

Jacqui Lebel works as a scribe for Eddie at the hospital, getting ready for Med school. She coached U-14 last year, and coached the Masters Copper camp this year

Geordie Lonza is currently in Med School

Amanda Goyne Mooneyham is a practicing physician, in family practice. She was a multiple year winner around 2002

Quincy Young is a ski coach, and has been involved in our program the last few years reviewing scholarship applications.

Season Update

The 2016-2017 race season kicked off on December 3rd and 4th at Mammoth Mountain with two good days of SL racing. Following a nice 2-3 ft. dump at the end of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, ski conditions and weather were good all week for a pre-season training camp put on by the Mammoth coaching staff.

Although the new snow resulted in soft conditions for training, the snow packed in a little better each day and by the weekend was firm enough to provide an adequate racing surface.

The enthusiastic field of 70+ competitors included several new racers along with a solid group of visitors from Intermountain and Central divisions. It was great to have so many new folks trying masters racing - we hope everyone had fun and comes back for more!

After race cancellations at Alpine Meadows, Heavenly and Mammoth racing resumed at the USSA "FIS Master's Cup" / Western Region Championships at Park City from February 3rd to 5th. As usual Far West Masters were well represented with several top 3 finishers, as follows: Jodi Melton took 1st place in Class 6 and Linda Crowell took 3rd place in Class 8 despite a DNF in the last race due to a nasty crash. Best wishes to Linda for a speedy recovery. Gaetano Demattei took 1st in Class 13 and Ara Papazian was 1st in class 5. Don Merritt and Don Smith tied for 3rd in Class 11, Blair Wallace was 3rd in Class 9, and Mike Braun was 3rd in Class 7.



Eddie Mozen and our Northstar Forerunners.

Left to right are: Zazie Huml, Jillian Ferre, Guthrie Goss, Kacie Meyer and Rachel Meyer

Photo by Randall Sussek.

A series of storms played havoc with the Northstar schedule resulting in the cancellation of the SG races and both GS races were rescheduled for Sunday. After all the bad weather Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day and the Logger Loop/Surprise race venue was a long, fun GS track resulting in a great days racing leaving competitors more than tired by the end of the day. Thanks to our Forerunners for showing us the way.

Also, a major thank-you to the Northstar race crew, who worked tremendously hard to put the race hill back in operation and keep the track maintained throughout the day. Their commitment to getting our races off and flexibility in accommodating many last-minute changes in signups as competitors dealt with the schedule changes and challenging weekend travel conditions was outstanding.

From: Far West Masters Racing Series

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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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