



**2016/2017 End of Season Edition
May 2017**



Masters Nationals DH Practice.
Photo: Nora Peri Minton

From the President's Corner...

By Dan Simmons
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It's almost the end of May and I'm waxing skis for one of Pierre's Mammoth camps. Skiing remains great at both Squaw Valley and Mammoth. Who would have thought after the last few years that we would have record snow. I think I had more shovel days than ski days this winter. The weather and area closures played havoc with our race schedule. Thanks to Mike Bruan's hard work as VP for scheduling, we were able to get 12 races in the books. Congratulations to all of the season champions especially Sara Gold and Mihai Filimon, overall open class winners and holders of the number 1 bibs for next year. The competitions were close. The top three women were separated by one point. The Board has authorized perpetual trophies for the top men and women, which will include the names of past recipients as well as Sara and Mihai.

We finished the season with a five race series for the Bernard Cup at Squaw Valley. Congratulations to Emily Andrews (W08) and Pierre Jeangirard (M08) winners of the 2017 Bernard Cup and thanks to the Squaw Valley Race Department for running an excellent event.

Randall Sussek was awarded the Cantanho "Spirit of Masters" award, which honors a competitor who exemplifies participation with cheerfulness and joy, as well as contributions to our program that encourages others to share the enjoyment of masters racing. The award was presented at the finals Banquet at the Lodge at Tahoe Donner. The banquet was over-subscribed and well-attended. Randall also was one of three competitors who made all twelve races. The other two were Sara Gold (W01) and Peter Kudola (M03).

Many thanks to the Board members, race officials, and all others who worked hard this year to make our events successful.

Mike Braun is working on next year's schedule which is looking pretty good. On the national level, the USSA Masters Nationals will return to Okemo Mountain Resort in Vermont, February 26 through March 3, 2018. The Nationals will be followed by the 2018 FIS World Criterium at Big Sky Montana, March 19-24.

The Board will meet this Fall in Truckee. All are welcome to attend and I will circulate the date as soon as it's scheduled. Please send me your ideas,

proposals and complaints for Board consideration at President@farwestmasters.org.

Enjoy the summer.

Dan

Viva Italia!!!

The rescheduled Heavenly SL races, cancelled due to a massive winter storm in early January, were held on Friday Mar. 3 and it was a great spring party! Racing on the World Cup SL hill at the California base of Heavenly, we had comfortable spring weather and a beautiful day on the hill. The race hill was in fantastic condition, with the usual terrain features gentled to a smooth pitch by this season's snowpack.

Heavenly's race crew did a great job keeping the busy race day of 4 SL runs moving along. Yes, we still had to hike to the start about 6 gates up from the top of the World Cup lift, but hey, the weather was great and you can't beat the view from Heavenly.

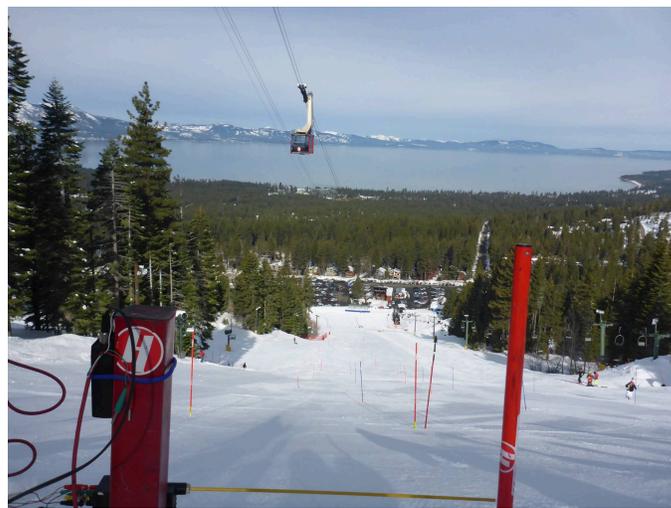


Photo: Randall Sussek

Awards were held at the bottom of the race hill at the end of the day, with pizza and sunshine in plenty. With both races scored under our age-handicapping system for the Viva Italia cup, Carol Levine (W09) recovered from a shakey first run for a come-from-behind victory over the closely fought day-long battle between Emily Andrews and Lors Spicher. On the men's side, Tim Hill of PNSA (M06) drove all the way from Bend for some sunny FW racing and posted some wicked fast skiing to take the men's trophy ahead of defending champ Pierre Jeangirard and Bob Davis, back on the race hill and charging the comeback trail after a serious injury last season.

Mt. Rose McKinney Cup

When we arrived at Rose on Saturday 4th March it was a gorgeous sunny morning with the Sunshine Bowl race track beautifully prepared. It was, however, a bit breezy. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the Zephyr lift began to roll on schedule and competitors headed up the hill for inspection and our first run.



Photo: Randall Sussek

Although the course was a relatively short GS, due to the venue change from the Silver Dollar run where the timing equipment was inaccessible under 20 feet of snow, the course was fun and the sunshine appreciated after our stormy winter. Just before the scheduled second run start at 11:45am, with competitors arriving at the start, the winds increased past 60mph at the summit and the lift went on wind hold. With the winds continuing to increase and 1-2 ft of snow forecast overnight from a cold northern front, organizers and jury concluded that racing was done for the weekend and all adjourned to the Winters Creek lodge for food and party socializing.

The McKinney Cup trophy, awarded to the fastest overall man and woman for the event, was easy to calculate this year with only our 1-run GS to score! Andrea Levy (W01) convincingly took the women's title, while Mihai Filimon (M04) topped the hotly contested men's standings.

Mammoth National Championships

After a seemingly endless period of stormy weather through January and February, the Winter of 2017 finally took a break in March and rewarded us with a week of beautiful spring weather for the 2017 Masters National Championships at Mammoth the week of Mar. 13-18. Warm and sunny days with incredible

snow all over the mountain - classic California spring skiing and wonderful racing conditions!

Racing opened with DH training on Mon-Tue and the championship race on Wednesday. After two nearly perfect days of training, race day surprised competitors with the added challenge of breezy conditions on the upper sections of the World Cup/Fascination track. Plenty of wind stories at the finish, but with sunny conditions and a good track we were happy to get the race completed before rising winds forced lift closures by early afternoon.

Thursday's SG ran from the DH start on World Cup into Terrie's run, providing an interesting combination of gliding and technical sections. The track was firm for the morning A/B race but softened up just enough to provide a spectacular racing experience for the mid-day C/D race - huge smiles were everywhere at the finish!!



Photo: Randall Sussek

The national championship DH and SG races were the final events in the season-long National Speed Series. Custom belt buckles are awarded to the top three finishers in each age class of the season-long series, and the overall champions were announced. Congratulations to the 2017 Speed Series champions: Don Johnson (M07, RM), Dave Brennan (M09, IM), and Jennifer Kaufman (W05, RM)

Friday and Saturday finished the week with the A/B and C/D groups splitting between GS on lower World Cup/Terrie's and SL Fascination respectively. The nice spring weather held into the weekend, with rising winds bringing racing to a close on Saturday presenting an extra factor at the start of the C/D GS. As in Wednesday's DH, the breezy conditions were challenging but the weather and snow conditions were good and all races were completed in plenty of time for the Saturday evening banquet get-together.

Squaw Bernard Cup/Season Finals

The final event of the 2016-2017 race season was held at Squaw Valley on Thu-Fri-Sat Mar. 30-Apr. 1. In addition to being the final scoring races of the season for those competing for season awards and 2018 leader bibs, the finals were also the 2017 Bernard Cup.



Photo: Kris Buttenberg

Thursday racing opened with 2 GS races planned on the Julia's Gold (Exhibition) race hill. After a delayed start and lift holds due to winds, fog, and lightning, one GS race was completed and the second postponed to Saturday. The weather cleared and conditions were warm and springy for Friday's 2 SL races and the final two GS races on Saturday.

The season finals banquet was held on Saturday night at Tahoe Donner. Along with season awards in all age classes and the announcement of next season's leader bibs, several special awards were also given out. The best new racer awards were given to Sara Gold (W01) and Peter Kudola (M03), and Sara was also named the #1 ladies bib holder for next season by the slimmest possible margin of 1 point, determined on the final run of the last race of the season! The men's #1 bib will be worn next season by Mihai Filimon (M04).

The Bernard Cup is awarded to the top man and women racer in the overall standings of the event, using an age-handicapping factor to compare performances across the broad range of ages competing together in masters. It was a special treat to have members of Bob Bernard's family sharing the evening and celebrating Bob's legacy of contributions to Masters races, as well as now-retired champion Norma Lausmann. The 2017 Bernard Cup winners are Emily Andrews (W08) and Pierre Jeangirard (M08).

2017/2018 Season Registration

There are two steps you need to take in order to be ready to compete next season:

1. Renew your USSA membership now
2. Renew your Far West masters membership in October

Please note that these are two separate steps that need to be completed individually.

Step one: USSA Membership renewal for the 2017/2018 season is open now. Please go to <http://my.ussa.org> to log in and then in the "My Account" box on your My USSA page click the link to "Renew Membership".

Step two: Far West Masters membership renewal will be in October. Once again this year we would like to encourage all members to renew their membership online at <https://www.skiracereg.com/fw>.

The start of season edition of Forerunner will be published in September with full instructions for how to renew online and notification of all membership renewal deadlines. Members who elected to pay to receive paper copies of Forerunner will receive a paper copy of Forerunner with the full membership renewal packet. All other members will receive a link to the online PDF version of Forerunner by email, and will be able to access Forerunner online at <http://farwestmasters.org/documents/newsletter>. All members will also receive a courtesy reminder postcard by USPS.

USSA Updates

At the May 13, 2017 meeting of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board of Directors, the Board authorized the change of the organization's name from United States Ski and Snowboard Association to U.S. Ski & Snowboard. This change will be made throughout the organization as new branding standards are finalized and published in June. A more detailed summary of the Board of Directors meeting is available at <http://ussa.org/ussa/board-directors-meeting-recap-may-2017>

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Club Excellence Conference and Congress was held from May 9th to May 13th in Park City, UT with representatives from the ski racing community from across the country. Meeting minutes will be available at <http://ussa.org/ussa/meetings-and-reports>.

From: Far West Masters Racing Series

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Forerunner

<http://www.farwestmasters.org>

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To:

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

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