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President's Update

To all our Far West Masters members:

Well, just when we thought last season was unusual, it looks like we continue to live in “interesting times”! But first off, and most important, I hope all of you and your families have been able to stay healthy and well and to enjoy the summer to the extent possible given the impact of the pandemic.

I have heard from many of you in recent weeks wondering what the future is likely to hold for Masters ski racing in the coming season as you try to make decisions on season passes, training opportunities, ski leases, equipment purchases etc. Like all of you, the FWM Board and I would welcome greater certainty about what next season will look like. In an effort to provide some updates I have been discussing the situation with Masters National leadership and we also had an emergency FWM Board meeting a few days ago. The bad news is that unfortunately at this stage everything remains in a state of flux and uncertainty.

While US Ski & Snowboard (USSS) has provided some initial recommendations about potential precautions – including restrictions on numbers of racers in an event, temperature tests for all competitors, signing waivers etc. – these are all very preliminary at the moment. We do anticipate receiving more definitive guidance from USSS by mid-September which we will incorporate into our planning for Far West Masters and we will communicate to all our members when we receive it.

We have seen only very limited information from the mountains on operating plans and possible restrictions. Heavenly has already cancelled the event we had planned for January. Mount Rose has announced it will delay its planned October 30 opening, probably till mid-November, to allow the mountain to get a reasonable amount of terrain open. Other mountains still show planned opening dates but I would suggest you treat these as speculative at the moment while the industry as a whole tries to get to grips with what will be possible and to develop plans.

So, in light of all this, what has Far West Masters been doing to be in a position to respond to whatever directives and guidance come out that will impact our race season. Our Scheduling Director, Mike Braun, has been hard at work since the early shutdown last season to put together a potential schedule for next season. This was no mean feat given that most mountains had furloughed staff so there were no contacts available! Despite this Mike was successful in creating an excellent provisional schedule (see below) only to find out, 15 minutes after finalizing, that Heavenly were cancelling our event. I think the only thing definitive about our schedule at the moment is that it will be subject to change, probably on an ongoing basis, so please take this into account when doing season planning. Nevertheless, we will apply our best efforts to delivering the best possible race series for members under these unprecedented circumstances, subject to whatever restrictions may be enacted by governing bodies and host mountains.

With the unanimous support of the Board, we have agreed that we will waive the membership fee for Far West Masters for this season. We recognize that, given the levels of uncertainty around events, members may,

justifiably, have delayed renewals this year. As a Board we want to do whatever we can to help our racers get through this season and, while it may be one of the less onerous financial commitments, we want to see all of you remain connected to and get updates from FWM. You will still need to renew your membership on SkiRaceReg.com to sign liability waivers but it will be a no-cost option. Further details will be provided when membership opens on SkiRaceReg.com. We have also extended this offer for new members so consider using this as an opportunity to bring new members into Far West Masters!. Thanks to the excellent stewardship of your funds by our Treasurer and Board we are able to fund this for this season to support our members and remove one concern for you.

With regard to USSS membership and race licenses we have been advised that USS will NOT provide any refunds should it be necessary to shorten or, in worst case, cancel the season. My advice to you at this stage would be to hold off on renewal of your USSS membership until we have some more guidance. The late fee for renewal goes into effect after October 15 but I am hopeful we will have better insight before then.

In other related National updates, FIS Masters has just implemented a rule to require FIS certified and stickered helmets in all FIS events other than slalom, ending the exemption to that requirement previously applied to Masters. It is likely that USSS will also now apply this requirement for Masters in alignment with all other Alpine competitors. I know that most of you have upgraded your helmets in recent years but, if you have not, now is the time to replace it with an FIS stickered model. The other significant rules change for the coming season is that fluorocarbon waxes have now been banned for use in all FIS and USSS events due to the potential harmful environmental and health effects.

In summary then, this is likely to be a challenging and constantly evolving season. You have the commitment of all the Far West Masters Board to do whatever we can to put on races wherever possible, even though this season is unlikely to look like anything we have experienced in the past. We are also committed to get update information out to you at the earliest opportunity. In return we would ask for your continued support, and forbearance when we have to make changes at short notice, in order that we can continue to participate in our sport through these challenging times.

I look forward to hopefully seeing you all at our first event of the season.....wherever that turns out to be ! In the meantime, stay healthy and safe.

Best to All!

Ray Tulloch
President, Far West Masters



Far West Masters Ski Racing

2020-2021 Race Schedule

**** PRELIMINARY ****

The tentative schedule for the 2020-2021 Far West Masters division series has been put together by scheduling director Mike Braun working with our race organizers around the Far West division. Scheduling is always a challenge and even more so over the past months, with all ski areas closing in March due to the coronavirus and staff scattered with limited availability.

Far West Masters is planning and preparing for the coming season, but we want everyone to be aware of the possibility of continuing changes as ski areas and US Ski & Snowboard provide additional guidance through the fall on how to safely allow for ski area operations and racing events. The key technique for ski racing in 20-21: **FLEXIBILITY!!**

Date	Location	Event Name	Discipline(s)
Nov 30-Dec 4	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Masters race camp	
December 5-6	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Woolly's Challenge	GS / SL
December 19	Alpine Meadows		SLx2
January 22-24	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Mammoth Speed Series	SGx2 (first race NSS) SGx2 (first race NSS) SG
February 5-7	Beaver Creek, CO	FIS Masters Cup / Western Regionals	SGx2 / GS1x2 / SL (Sat: two 1-run GS)
February 20-21	Mt. Rose, NV	McKinney Cup	GS / GS
March 5	Northstar, CA	Northstar Speed Series	SGx2 (both NSS)
March 6-7	Squaw Valley, CA	Bernard Cup	GS / SL
March 15-19	Sun Valley, ID	Masters National Championships	SG / SC / GS / SL
April 1-3	Mammoth Mountain, CA	FWM Season Finals	SGx2 / GS / SL Season Banquet

Unfortunately, one of our traditional events is missing from this season's schedule. The Viva Italia races at Heavenly Valley, usually held in early January after the holiday break, will not be held this season as Heavenly is not planning to put on any events.

The FIS Masters Cup races at Beaver Creek, CO on Feb. 5-7 are also the Western Region Championships. Competitors age 30+ must have a current FIS Masters license; competitors 29 and under are eligible only for US masters awards. All competitors must have a current US Masters membership. If FIS withdraws the Beaver Creek event due to covid and travel restrictions, we may still be able to hold the event as a US Masters sanctioned regional championship.

The 2021 Masters National Championships will be hosted at Sun Valley ID on March 15-19. Plans for the national championship DH have not yet been determined.

Additional details along with information on training opportunities will be published in the fall. Mammoth Mountain will once again be holding a masters training camp on Nov. 30-Dec. 4, the week prior to our season opening races on Dec. 5-6.

Far West Masters Scholarship Program
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Wow, what a change the last 4 months have brought to our lives! Everything we have taken for granted is now in question. But...I believe we will turn this around and come out of this stronger than ever! Along those thoughts I am hoping for a strong and successful ski season this coming winter and want to make our scholarship program to be stronger than ever.

Enclosed is this year's solicitation letter for the Far West Masters Scholarship Program. We have updated the Far West Masters Website with detailed information links about the program and have included simple donate buttons for quick easy donations. The link to this site is https://farwestmasters.org/scholarship_program

This year marks the 27th year of our general Far West Masters Scholarship Program. We have raised well over a million dollars during that time with all funds given to Far West Athletes with no overhead! Our goal is to promote academic scholarship, citizenship and leadership within the ski racing community and keep athletes involved in ski racing that might not otherwise have a chance without financial support. We believe keeping athletes involved in ski racing keeps them focused, teaches them discipline and helps them to be successful in the rest of their life endeavors.

We continue to sponsor the Far West Masters College scholarship as well. Last year we were able to give out a \$20,000 award to Sophia Staudenmayer to attend Boston College.

This year in our request for your donation I would like to offer you the option of directing your funding to the goal of keeping this University funding going. Additionally, we continue to have a commitment from a donor that will match all funds raised for Sophia up to \$10,000. So the potential of a \$20,000 award is possible. We reached that goal last year and hope to do that again this year!

For the general fund, we are asking for a tax-deductible contribution of \$200 (check made out to "Far West Masters Scholarship Program" and send c/o Eddie Mozen to the letterhead address). Additionally you can now easily go to the website (link above) and make a contribution using PayPal or credit card. Please rest assured that if the coming season is delayed or cancelled the funds will be distributed the following season. If you wish to direct funding to The Masters College Scholarship...let me know and I will direct your contribution accordingly. Of course any monetary contribution is greatly appreciated. We will provide you with a letter confirming your donation to our organization which is incorporated as a 501(c) (3) public charity tax exempt organization. There is no overhead in our program. All administrative costs are donated so every dollar goes directly to one of these programs.
Sincerely,

Eddie Mozen
Miles Anderson
Doug Fulton

From: Far West Masters Racing Series

C/O Mary Feddis

P.O. Box 7691

Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

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To:**The *Forerunner***

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

Mary Feddis
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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,
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