

FAR WEST MASTERS

SKI RACING



THE FORERUNNER

OCTOBER, 2023

Membership Renewal

Far West Masters membership for 2023-2024 opens Oct 1 for new and renewing members: masters.AdminSkiRacing.com/farwest

USSA membership early bird deadline is October 15th - avoid the \$25 late fee my.usskiandsnowboard.org

Both a Far West Masters and a USSA membership are required to race with us. First time racers get a temporary bib. Questions? Contact membership@farwestmasters.org

Be a race official

Any member can learn to be a race official. Contact FW Masters President Rees Palermo & find info here: fwskiing.org/content/far-west-officials-page

Helmet & Wax Info

A FIS-certified race helmet is REQUIRED for all GS/SG/DH events

Fluoro race waxes are NOT ALLOWED in any US events (ban instituted in 2021)

President's Message

Too Much of a Good Thing

That's how I would describe the snowfall out here in Far West Division this past season. Yes, there were some epic powder days, but having to cancel nearly all of our races due to soft snow conditions didn't help our cause.

Hi Far West Masters racers, this is Rees Palermo, taking over as division chairman from Ray Tulloch who served us for the last 6 years. Thank you Ray!

For those of you who don't know me, I've been racing Masters since the '82 season, and coached at Mt Rose for over 35 years. I was also in charge of what is now the "McKinney Cup" for most of those years. And, I'm proud to say, I raced for UNR all four years back in the mid-70's. Currently I've been coaching at Palisades Tahoe.

So, what is our "cause?" Why do we ski race? Paraphrasing the Masters Comp Guide, many of us embrace it as a life-long sport, and many others are challenging themselves in a new sporting activity. And, it IS challenging! Weather conditions, physical strength and agility, overcoming fear, are just a few challenges of this sport. But, the rewards are great as well. The adrenaline rush, improving one's skiing, camaraderie, and making life-long friends with similar interests, can be achieved.

While racing Masters in Europe in 1987, I met two families who I still visit whenever I can, and who stay with me whenever they travel here to the west coast. So great! It is a sport that gives back whatever you put into it.

This season looks very exciting with a good balance of speed and technical events. Our scheduling director, Mike Braun, has had to work hard juggling our schedule around holidays, national, and international events. And, we have the National DH Championships right here in Mammoth this season. Thank you Mike!

If you've ever considered racing out-of-division, or even in Europe, I strongly recommend you try it! Big races are scheduled in Granite Peak, Wisconsin, Beaver Creek, CO, and western Canada this year.

president's message cont'd

In our division, we try to have at least one social event at each of our race venues as part of our post-race awards ceremony. PLEASE try to attend! And, another thing we do, we give money, by way of our scholarship program, to worthy young athletes. This program has established us Far West Masters as legitimate, honorable, and significant contributors to United States Junior Ski Racing for many years, and it continues. At these post-race events, we often raise money for our junior scholarship program with some great raffle prizes. Special thanks to Eddie Mozen, and all involved, for their years of service.

We also need officials at each and every race! These are volunteers made up of our own racers and coaches. If you have ever considered becoming an official, please do! We always need new ones. It takes some training but we will help you. Contact me at president@farwestmasters.org if you'd like more info.

You will see a listing of our FW Board members in this newsletter. Each is assigned a different task. ALL are volunteers. Some have many years of experience, some are new, but all put in a lot of time to make this organization run. Please recognize them for their work, when you can. And, Deb Lewis is the glue that holds this whole thing together.

Lastly, this whole race program continues only with your participation. Please try to attend as many races as you can

Enjoy! Have fun! See you out there!

Rees



2023-2024 US Masters National Team (including Andrea Levy, Deb Lewis and Ryan Ritchie from Far West Masters)

2023-2024 Season Schedule

The preliminary 2023-2024 race schedule is now available! Scheduling Director Mike Braun has put together a calendar with a good mix of events at proven venues. The schedule this season has different dates for some of our traditional events in consideration of the early Nationals races scheduled for February. The FIS Masters World Criterium is in March, a major event that only comes to North America every 5 years. A season highlight is the Masters National DH Championship in our home division at Mammoth Mountain.

Date	Location	Event Name	Discipline(s)
Nov. 28-Dec. 1 [Tue-Fri]	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Masters race camp	GS and SL
December 2-3 [Sat-Sun]	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Dave McCoy Memorial	GS / SL
January 20-23 [Sat-Tue]	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Mammoth Speed Races DH National Championship & Speed Series	SGx2 SGx2 DH(t)x2 DHx2
February 5-10 [Mon-Sat]	Granite Peak, WI	Masters National Championships	SG / GS / SL + AC or Parallel (tbd)
February 10 [Sat]	Mt. Rose, NV	McKinney Cup	GSx2
Feb. 24-25	Palisades World Cup		Men GS / SL
February 22-25 [Thu-Sun]	Beaver Creek, CO	FIS Masters Cup / Western Region Championships	SGx2 / GS_1x2 / SL (Sat: two 1-run GS)
Mar 1-7 [Fri-Thu]	Kimberly, BC, CAN	Masters World Criterium	SG / SL / GS + FMC GS
March 8 [Fri]	Alpine Meadows, CA		SLx2
March 15 [Fri]	Northstar, CA	Northstar Speed Series	SGx2 (both NSS)
March 16-17	Diamond Peak, NV	Viva Italia	SL / SL
April 5-6 [Fri-Sat]	Palisades Tahoe, CA	Season Finals & Banquet Bernard Cup	GS/ GS

The schedule is subject to change, for the latest go to farwestmasters.org/schedule.

Registration: Far West Masters membership signup and race entries are available on AdminSkiRacing: masters.adminskiracing.com/farwest

2023-2024 Season Schedule cont'd

The 2024 Masters National Championships are scheduled at Granite Peak, WI on Feb. 5-10. Central Division is excited at their first opportunity to host the national championship SG, GS, and SL races. *(final details of an additional racing event will be announced when available)*

The FIS Masters Cup races at Beaver Creek, CO on Feb. 22-25 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. The international FIS Masters World Criterium follows on Mar. 1-7 at Kimberly BC in Canada, which hosted extremely successful FIS Masters Cup races in 2023.

Mammoth Mountain will once again be holding a masters training camp on Tue-Fri Nov. 28-Dec. 1, prior to our season opening GS/SL races on Dec. 2-3.

Membership Renewal

We are once again using Admin Ski Racing (ASR) for membership and race fees. Far West Masters membership for 2022-2023 will open for new and renewing members on October 1st at masters.AdminSkiRacing.com/farwest. Activate your account for the season and pay your Far West Masters dues online.

This was a new process for us last season, and there were some challenges. Deb Lewis has been working closely with the ASR team and we hope many of the issues have been resolved. The Far West page at ASR has detailed instructions to help you with the system. If you need additional assistance, you can contact Deb Lewis at dlewis@farwestmasters.org.

The renewal deadline for Far West Masters is November 15th, after that date renewal is \$25. Race registration will open in November.

Don't forget to renew your US Ski & Snowboard Alpine Master membership before the early registration deadline of Oct. 15, 2023. The [New Member Registration Guide](#) from US Alpine Masters has a helpful overview of everything you need to know for your US Ski & Snowboard membership renewal. Once you are ready to join or renew go to my.usskiandsnowboard.org to start the process.

US Ski & Snowboard Sign-Up Reminders

- Most masters should select the "Alpine Master" membership type. Only select the "Alpine Master w/ requirements" membership type if you are required to have SafeSport training and background checks due to your engagement with junior athletes through a US Ski & Snowboard club role.
- Most masters should select "No Club Affiliation" for the US Ski & Snowboard club affiliation. Do NOT select the club at the area where you ski and train unless you are actually a member - the clubs are generally associated only with junior alpine competitor programs.
- At the end of the renewal or new member process, you will be asked to e-sign a release of liability.
- Your Far West Masters membership is IN ADDITION to your US Ski & Snowboard Alpine Master membership. Your FWM membership dues supports organizing our division race calendar and provides you with a permanent race bib for all our Far West masters races.

Far West Masters membership is not required for first-time racers or competitors from other divisions. Mary Feddis, our Membership Director, will contact you with additional information.



Palisades Tahoe Masters enjoying a sunny day and a lot of snow!
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Palisades Tahoe Cup Returns in 2024

The FIS Men's World Cup returns to Palisades Tahoe with Slalom and Giant Slalom races on February 24-25, 2024. Last year's race definitely took a village of volunteers to ensure its success. Far West Masters members volunteered in all areas of this event, from volunteer coordination to athlete hospitality, venue preparation, timekeeping, course maintenance, and more. There are a lot of stories about encounters with racers and of middle of the night shifts to pack down the feet of snow we got just before the race. The amount of work that goes into making a few hours of World Cup racing is astounding, and last season's snow conditions made all of the work much more challenging.

The World Cup race at Palisades is possible only with the help of many volunteers, and race organizers are looking for help again this year. For each day you volunteer you'll get a lift ticket (if you have a season pass, the vouchers make great gifts). Best of all you get to experience the thrill of a World Cup event close-up and help to make it a success.

If you are interested, stay tuned for future announcements about how to sign up for volunteer opportunities. There is plenty of work to do in the weeks leading up to the race, and organizers need even more volunteers the week of the race and on race days. We will update our membership as soon as this year's volunteer information is posted.

Thank you for your time and interest in volunteering!



Far West Masters coaches working at the 2023 Palisades Tahoe Cup.

Mark Mirviss

Far West Scholarship Program

The Far West Scholarship program has been providing assistance to young racers for the past 40 years. The program has grown from 8-9 scholarship recipients at its start to 35-40 recipients annually. Each year, our membership receives a letter from Eddie Mozen, the program's director, asking for donations to help local kids continue in the expensive sport of ski racing. For many of our members, the letter is their only source of information about the Scholarship Program. For the student athletes we support, the program is a critical component of their skiing experience.



Far West Masters past scholarship recipient Luca Robillard

One of the impressive aspects of the program is that **funds go 100% to the kids. There are no administrative overhead costs.** Funding for this program comes from donations from the Far West Masters community, and all of the work to make this program possible is done by volunteers, many of whom are members of Far West Masters. Funding for each scholarship recipient goes into an account with Far West, and any race or travel fees for Far West racing are debited from that account. This ensures that all funds go directly toward racing.

Many scholarship recipients start with the program at age 13 and continue through high school. They must apply for funding each year, and the application process is rigorous. Usually one or two outstanding students receive up to \$20k college scholarships each year as well. The application process is rigorous, with an essay similar to a college entrance question. Three recommendations are required, from a parent, a peer, and someone who isn't their ski coach. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of factors, and racing performance is only one of the aspects considered.

In the future, we'll go more into the program and how Far West Masters impacts student athletes. To donate, go to: farwestmasters.org/scholarship_program

Past Scholarship Recipient Update: Sophia Staudenmayer

I graduated from Sugar Bowl Academy in 2019 and headed to Boston College to study economics and international studies. While there, I competed on the NCAA D1 ski team for all four years, including two years serving as the captain.

The summer following my sophomore year, I interned at Cerberus Capital Management in their corporate credit and distressed debt division, working with Bob Davenport, a member of the Far West Masters. There I gained skills and knowledge about the business world with projects forecasting the S&P 500 and evaluating EV companies.

Using the lessons learned at Cerberus, I then interned at Boston Consulting Group the following summer and will be starting as a full-time associate at BCG this fall.

In May of this year, I earned cum laude honors with my economics and international studies degrees.



Past scholarship recipient Sophia Staudenmayer

Past Scholarship Recipient Update: Luca Robillard

Dear Eddie and the Masters,

I just finished my first year at UC Santa Cruz! It feels good to say goodbye to being a Freshman!

I had always planned to attend college on the East Coast and ski on the NCAA circuit, but those plans changed last year. As you may know, I took a gap year last year after graduating from Sugar Bowl Academy in 2021, in the pursuit of landing a spot on a college team. I moved out to Vermont for the year and skied for

GMVS's PG Team. I worked hard and had a great time, but my ski racing journey did not end as expected. I fell short of my goals, reducing my chances of skiing competitively in college. This, and other factors, led me to attend school in Santa Cruz. While this was an unexpected turn of events, I definitely am not complaining!

This year was great! While I miss ski racing tremendously, especially the competitive aspect of it, I still found this year very fulfilling. I developed a new appreciation for school, studying subjects I had never learned about in high school, and finding great joy in learning. I also spent my free time riding my mountain bike and surfing. With amazing trails eight minutes uphill from campus and great surfing just a few minutes away, Santa Cruz is really hard to beat. I made new friends, created new relationships, learned, grew, and began forming a new identity for myself. While it is difficult to move on from ski racing, I am very grateful for the opportunity that moving on has offered me.

This summer I will be taking classes online to continue my progress, working part-time, and volunteering time to help coach Strength and Conditioning at Sugar Bowl Academy. I will also be doing my best to have some fun!

I am so incredibly grateful for your support and the opportunities that your support has afforded me. You have been there for me every step of my athletic and academic journey, and I don't know where I would be without you. Masters, thank you so much for everything you have done for me. I can't thank you enough. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Best,

Luca Robillard



Past scholarship recipient Luca Robillard

Remembering Gate

Our beloved, admired and forever role model, Gate DeMattei passed away Tuesday, September 26th. Gate was born February 9th, 1929 in San Francisco. He attended his first ski competition when he was a student at Santa Clara University while on a College trip to Badger Pass ski area in Yosemite National Park. Interestingly enough, Gate's first competition was not racing through gates, but in ski jumping!



Dr. Gaetano "Gate" DeMattei

Gate was a Surgeon for many decades and was always there to help our fallen racers when the need arose. I'm pretty sure a suture kit was always within his reach. Gate practiced Surgery in the Marysville Yuba City area, until he "retired." Of course, for Gate, retirement meant moving full time to Olympic Valley...and of course, into the Operating Room at Tahoe Forest Hospital where he continued to keep practicing. Gate's wife Gail, helped along with Nina Thys, arrange our Masters Awards parties after many of our races. This was the state of "retirement" in the DeMattei household.

Of course skiing was just one aspect of Gate's life. He was a loving Father of 8 children, 19 Grand Children and eleven Great Great grandchildren. Gate was truly an inspiration and an example to all of his family. He was always hard working, honest, and a wonderful role model for his immediate and extended family. Gate, who was preceded in death by his wife Gail, took great pride in the accomplishments of his sons and daughters.

Most of us will remember Gate as a multiple Far West Masters age group champion, National Masters Champion, and International Masters Champion. Gate won his first National Championship in Alyeska Alaska in 1995.



Gate in the gate at Aspen Highlands on his 90th birthday

But to me, and many, many other ski racers across this nation, and yes, even the world, Gate will be remembered as an inspiration to us all for not only racing when he was 92 years of age, but doing it well! I was lucky enough to have had the honor of coaching Gate for many years, as well as driving with him and Gail to Copper Mountain on numerous occasions. And as I liked to tell people who inquired about our Palisades Tahoe Masters Program, when they asked if they might be too old to participate, I'd say, "well, we have one U 95 racer that still races and skis great!"

When recently asked by his son Chris if he was going to ski this season, Gate said, "well, if my body holds out I will." While Gate's body didn't hold out for another season, I like to think he will be skiing with all of us, in all of our hearts forever!

- Mark Mirviss



At Copper Masters ski camp the from L to R: Miles Anderson, Crawford Pierce, Dave Melton, Bill Archibald, and Gate DeMattei

When I finished my Emergency Medicine Residency and moved back to Squaw Valley, one of my first jobs was working at Rideout Hospital in Marysville in the emergency department. Gate was a general surgeon there, and we both commuted there from Squaw. I remember times we had multiple trauma patients at once. Gate and I would work side by side—the young, fresh attending doctor beside the seasoned veteran doctor saving lives together.

Later in both of our careers, we worked side by side at Tahoe Forest Hospital in the emergency department as well. We went to many ski races with each other, and traveled across the country listening to books on tape together.



Gate winning his age group Bernard Cup 2022 Palisades Tahoe

When my son Isaac was born, in his first years of life, Gate and his wife, Gail, would watch Isaac while Barbara I would race. Gate was very proud of the fact that he was the oldest person at the races, and Isaac was proud that he was the youngest person at the races. They would hang out together and have a great time, including both running downhill at Soldier Mountain.

- Eddie Mozen



Gate at Masters Copper camp with Isaac Mozen in red and scholarship athlete Nico Monforte

Some of Gate's Masters Ski Racing accomplishments:

- 7x Overall Combined 1st place National Champion
- 48 National Championship Medals
- 12x Western Region Champion
- 15x Belt buckle winner over the 22 years of the NSS
- 4x FIS Masters Cup globe winner (2x1st, 1x2nd, 1x3rd)
- 2019 AI Sise Outstanding Masters Award Winner



Gate and Bill Archibald at a Masters Copper Mountain Camp



Gate and Sally Brew at Sally's birthday this spring, 2023



Gate with long time friend and Coach Barry Thys

Facebook + Instagram

Our new Communications officer, Melissa House, is working to add more content to our Facebook and Instagram pages. On October 8th, she will update our Facebook group with new rules of conduct that will help keep the community focused on skiing and racing and allow administrators to help keep conversations on topic.

If you stepped away from our Facebook group in the past, please consider joining again!

Tell your story!

We'd love to hear about your ski racing journey. Are you a new racer just joining, or have you been racing for many years? Do you have a great preseason fitness program you'd like to share? Have a great photo? A story to tell from a past race or World Cup volunteering? Post to our social media groups or contact Melissa to add it to our newsletter.

forerunner@farwestmasters.org

Race day profiles

Have you seen the stories [@fisalpine](#) has on Instagram? They're asking racers questions and posting their fun and candid responses. Melissa is going to be trying this out at some of our events and posting them to our social media. If you see her taking video and would like to participate, just let her know! We'd love to get to know all of our racers better.

2023-2024 Far West Masters Board

The Far West Masters board met on May 7, 2023 and voted on new board members for the 2023-2024 season. Many of our board members are returning, but a few have changed. Here is the list of our board members for the upcoming season, effective June 1st. New positions are noted in the list.

President	Rees Palermo	president@farwestmasters.org	new for 23-24
Past President	Ray Tulloch		
Officials	Mark Mirviss	mmirviss@farwestmasters.org	
Race Scheduling	Mike Braun		
Membership	Mary Feddis	membership@farwestmasters.org	
Communications	Melissa House	forerunner@farwestmasters.org	new for 23-24
Secretary	Linda Crowell		new for 23-24
Treasurer	Hamish Butler		new to this role
Chief Technical Officer	Deb Lewis	dlewis@farwestmasters.org	



Melissa House

Far West Masters racer wish fulfillment
Season Finals at Mammoth Mountain in April, 2022