

FAR WEST MASTERS

SKI RACING



THE FORERUNNER

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mission Statement

We, the Far West Masters, embrace ski racing as a lifelong sport. Our mission is to provide skiers of all levels with an opportunity to compete in quality, challenging, and fun alpine ski racing events.

Membership Info

- Both a Far West Masters and a USSA membership are required to race with us.
- Far West Masters membership for 2024-2025 for new and renewing members:
masters.AdminSkiRacing.com/farwest
- USSA Alpine Masters membership:
Masters Getting Started:
usskiandsnowboard.org
- If you're a first time racer with Far West Masters, or if you have other questions, contact:
membership@farwestmasters.org

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President's Message:

Do you know how fortunate we are to have the winter climate we have here in the Sierra?

Having just returned from racing in sub-zero temperatures up in Idaho, I have a renewed appreciation for our California winters. And, consider how long our season goes with the typical snow pack we accumulate. Having grown up in the East and skiing in Vermont, I remember taking one run and going back into the lodge to warm up. Of course, the icy conditions were a lot of fun, as well. So, no more complaining about the weather from me

Speaking of which, the weather held out and allowed for good racing for the Mammoth SGs, but the Alpine Meadow's Slaloms got short changed! The morning brought about 4 inches of new snow, transforming to rain midday making the track unskiable. At least we got off one race. And twice now the weather has forced cancelations of the Palisades GS races. But, we get one more shot at it, right?

Our last series of races are coming up and should be a good cross section of events. Diamond Peak is planning 3 SL'S in 2 days, Northstar will host 2 SGs and a GS, and Palisades Tahoe will hold a final SL and GS! Please sign up and support our program, and have fun with the competition and camaraderie.

We also have elections coming up for some of the volunteer positions on our Board of Directors. We plan to have a general meeting and will be voting for new members right after our Palisades SL on April 4. Give some thought to how you can help our program. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board, send me a text at 775-762-1446. And, if you would like to become an official it could greatly help our program. We only have a handful of officials at the moment, and there can't be a race without officials. Mark Mirviss is currently the officials chairman and I'm sure he would love to hear from you!

As always, tell a friend about our Far west Masters ski racing series and get more people involved. More members will Make for a better program!

See you on the hill!

- Rees

2024-2025 Season Schedule

Below is the current schedule for the 2024-2025 season.

Date	Location	Event Name	Discipline(s)
Dec. 3-6 [Tue-Fri]	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Masters race camp	GS and SL
December 7-8 [Sat-Sun]	Mammoth Mountain, CA		GS / GS
Jan. 11-12 [Sat-Sun]	Sugar Bowl, CA	Viva Italia Cup	SL / SL
January 24-25 [Fri-Sat]	Mammoth Mountain, CA	Mammoth Speed Series (1st SG race each day scored for 2025 NSS)	Fri: SGx2 (SG1 NSS) Sat: SGx2 (SG1 NSS)
Jan. 31 [Fri]	Alpine Meadows		SL x 2 #2 canceled
Feb. 1-2 [Sat-Sun] CANCELED	Palisades Tahoe, CA (Olympic Valley)	Bernard Cup	GS / GS
Feb. 4-6 [Tue-Thu]	Big Sky, MT	Masters race camp	
Feb. 7-9 [Fri-Sat-Sun]	Big Sky, MT	FIS Masters Cup / WesternRegion Championships (both SG races scored for NSS)	Fri: SGx2 Sat: 1-run GS x2 Sun: SL
Feb. 10-12 [Mon - Wed]	Soldier Mountain, ID	National DH Championship	DH(t) / DH(t) / DHx2
Mar. 1-2 [Sat-Sun]	Diamond Peak, NV		SLx2 / SL
Mar. 14-15 [Fri-Sat]	Northstar, CA	Northstar Speed Series (both SG races scored for NSS)	Fri: NSS SGx2 Sat: GS
Mar. 18-22 [Tue-Sat]	Gore Mountain, NY	Masters National Championships	SG / GS / SL + AC
April 4-5 [Fri-Sat]	Palisades Tahoe, CA	Season Finals & Banquet	SL / GS

This schedule is subject to change. For the latest schedule and any additional info on upcoming races, go to farwestmasters.org/schedule.

Link to the printable schedule: https://farwestmasters.org/announcements/2025/FWM_Schedule_2025.pdf

See the section in this newsletter about [New member info & how to sign up for racing](#) to get more info on registration for our races.

Palisades & Northstar parking update

Both Palisades and Northstar are requiring parking reservations on weekends and holidays through March, 2025. You can pay to reserve parking now, or wait and follow the instructions on each web site to get a free spot closer to the date of the race.

Palisades Tahoe reservations are required on

- **Saturday April 5**

Detailed parking information:

<https://www.parkpalisadestahoe.com/parkingbasics>

Palisades parking reservations:

<https://reservenski.parkpalisadestahoe.com/>

Northstar reservations are required on

- **Saturday, March 15**

Detailed Northstar parking information:

<https://www.northstarcalifornia.com/explore-the-resort/about-the-resort/getting-here.aspx>

Northstar parking reservations:

<https://www.parknorthstar.com/>

Our races on Friday, March 14 (Northstar), and Friday, April 5 (Palisades) **do not require reservations at this time.**

Entry deadlines and cancellation info:

- The **entry deadline** for an event is generally set to be 1-2 days prior to the first race of the series.
- Online registration is closed at 8pm on the **entry deadline date** (this is usually on Wednesday or Thursday before the race series).
- The **cancellation deadline is set at the same time as the entry deadline.** You may cancel an entry at anytime until the cancellation deadline and no fees will be charged.
- The **start list for a race is generally closed the day before the race**, at the cutoff time determined by the ski area organizer's procedure.
- You must be on the start list to compete in the race. Day-of-race entries generally cannot be accepted.
- Open class participation must be elected before the start list is closed.
- Refunds may be granted at the discretion of the race organizer for injury or illness, but it is the competitor's responsibility to contact the race organizer prior to the race to notify them of your withdrawal. You can get the contact info by emailing membership@farwestmasters.org.
- No entry fees are charged if a race must be canceled.

**Photos: Sugar Bowl SL
January 11-12, 2025**



Far West Masters at the Sugar Bowl finish line. J.C. Fat



Racer on course at Sugar Bowl. Melissa House



Saturday, January 11 Men's open class podium. First place: David Law, Second place: Erik Nelson, Third place: Wenceslao Lada Munoz Melissa House

**Photos: Mammoth Super G
January 24-25, 2025**



Mammoth Super G Men's class 7: Scott Womack, Dennis Yim, Bill Tomcich

Dennis Yim



Saturday, January 11 Women's open class podium. First place: Julie Loisel, Second place: Katie Sears, Third place: Deb Lewis Melissa House



Mammoth Super G Women's Open Seed: Linda Crowell, Nancy Gieske, Tricia Wall Dennis Yim

Race Report: Alpine Meadows SL January 31, 2025

by Melissa House

I had been looking forward to the Alpine Meadows SL for a while - after the challenging conditions at Sugar Bowl earlier in January, I hoped to feel a little more successful in SL for the two races scheduled for January 31st. This was my second Masters race back since a knee injury while free skiing in February, 2023 (Sugar Bowl was my first race back), and Alpine Meadows is one of my favorite mountains.

The morning started out overcast. As I took my first ride of the day on the Kangaroo chair at Alpine, I hoped the storm would hold off until the afternoon as reports said it might.

I hoped in vain. The wind picked up during inspection for the first run, and the first snowflakes appeared just about the time we started racing. The weather kept deteriorating from there.

However, we are a hardy group and we got the first run underway! (Well, we're somewhat hardy. At least, we knew we were hardy at the pizza party after the race. I think many folks were questioning their overall priorities and choices of race wear at the start as the wind blew through race suits.)

All of the racers in Far West Masters have always been so welcoming. I started racing as an adult, and I'm just starting to occasionally find confidence in slalom. As we lined up, all of the women chatted about the weather and the course (and our choices of race wear). It was fun to be part of this group watching from the start, and I cheered racers from the finish after the first run.

Run two proceeded much as the first, with intense weather and a challenging course that required a lot of effort from me. I felt great when I made it to the finish of both runs! [Results of the race are here.](#)

Many of us headed into the lodge to sit by the fire and wait for a decision about second race - we weren't sure if racing would continue that day. The visibility was decreasing, wind was increasing, and the snow felt wet and like it might be thick when it started to accumulate. The small army of ski area course workers worked hard to keep the snow off the course, but after inspection of the first run of race two the Jury ultimately decided to cancel the second race due to conditions. I think most

of us were happy with the decision. The light was flat and visibility was low by the time we headed to the pizza party.

Last season I watched many of the races from the finish, and I continue to be impressed by the skills of all of our racers. No matter the skill level, the mental battle seems to equalize the experience for many of us - beginning with the push out of the start, keeping our focus on the course, and then relaxing and having fun with the group in the finish. I'm thrilled to participate this season and be one of the hardy souls of Far West Masters.



Melissa House racing in the snow at Alpine Meadows. Peter Day
[See all racer photos at his site](#)



Alpine Meadows SL
Women's open class
podium.
First place: Julie Loisel,
Second place: Carol
Levine, Third place:
Linda Crowell

Melissa House

Alpine Meadows SL
Men's open class
podium.
First place: David Law,
Second place: Ryan
Ritchie, Third place: Ara
Papazian (not pictured)

Melissa House



Race report: Big Sky Masters Cup Western Regionals February 6-9, 2025

by Dan Simmons

The Big Sky FIS Masters Cup and Western Regionals in a few words: Terrific racing, SG, GS and SL, cold with wind, international competitors from Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and France, expensive lodging, multiple delays, and did I mention cold.

The early week started with snow Monday and Tuesday for Lisa Dinsmore Ballard's camp attended by at least one Far West Master. Word was they had to do a lot of work preparing the hill but had a successful camp.

Thursday the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation (BSSEF), which hosted the event, put on two SG training runs. The course was on the race hill, well set with a good surface. Nice preparation for the day to follow. Always fun to get on long skinny skis that like to go fast.

Friday was scheduled for two SG races. We were greeted with four to six inches of new Rocky Mountain champaign powder that fell overnight. After spending the whole morning slipping the hill down to a hard racing surface, the race got off around 12:30 with women running first, groups D then C, followed by the men, groups B and A. The scheduled first race finished around 3 p.m. so the second race was cancelled. Did I mention standing around in the cold? The course held up well for all competitors. Our own Erik Nelson was second fastest overall, fastest in Group A, and the winner of class 3. Other podium finishes include Deb Lewis first Women class 10, Don Smith second men class 12, Dan Simmons first men class 11, Dave Anderson third Men class 11 Vera Savage second women class 7, Brooke Wildenradt first women class 1

Saturday opened partly sunny and cold for two scheduled one run Giant Slaloms. Races started at the SG start and ran a little shorter. Both races got off, but with some timing delays. Another long day. Did I mention standing around in the cold. Courses were well set and the surface held up for everyone with lots of course work by BSSEF and competitors. Erik Nelson again was second overall in group A in both races and the winner of Men class 3 in both. Far West masters again stood on the podium in several classes, in Group B, Don Smith second in Men class 12 in both GS1 and 2,

Dan Simmons first Men class 11 GS1 and 2, Brock De Lappe third in Men class 11 GS1, Dave Anderson third in Men class 11 GS2, in Group C Vera Savage first Women class 7 in GS1 and 2, Brooke Wildenradt first Women class 1 in GS1 and 2; in Group D Deb Lewis first Women class 10 in GS1 and 2.

[You can see the complete race results on the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Masters website.](#)

Race Report: National Downhill Championships, Soldier Mountain ID February 10-12, 2026

by Jonathan Garey-Sage

On February 10-12, forty ski racers from multiple divisions of USSA converged on the small southern Idaho town of Fairfield. This is at the base of the Sawtooth range and about eight miles from Soldier Mountain ski area. The area has had quite a bit of snow and during our 3 days temperatures were subzero, adding a significant challenge.



Jon in the cold at Soldier Mountain. Jon Garey-Sage

Soldier Mountain has about 1400 feet of vertical spread over 1400 acres. It has few trees and multiple runs that lead to multiple options for downhill ski racing. They also do not have a race department at Soldier. Kids from Sun Valley do their speed training here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday when the mountain is closed to the public. Setting up the racer venue with sixty rolls of B net and gates was done by the race officials and competitors. It gave us an idea of how hard it is to get a race set up.

Except for the cold, the weather was great. From the top of the mountain, vistas of the Camas plateau were spectacular. We had bright blue skies for all three days. The temperatures were subzero every day but luckily there was no wind and lots of sun. Morning temperatures in Fairfield ranged from minus four to minus twenty-three. Due to valley inversion, temperatures at the mountain were higher but on the last day my car registered minus eleven in the parking

lot upon arrival. For us Far Westerners this was cold. Dressing for the cold was a daily challenge.

Day one required all hands to help set up B netting on the upper half of the course. A hot lunch was provided by the lodge staff every day at noon. It was a chance to warm up and socialize with our fellow racers. The afternoon session was devoted to training.

Day two activities were to finish setting the course, adjusting some of the B netting and gates, lunch, and a training run.

Day three presented a major obstacle to racing. The upper lift was on mechanical hold as the cold temperatures had caused the hydraulic fluids to thicken and required heating to loosen things up. We were shuttled to the top in their back country snowcat and racing began. The first run had the fastest time of 1:45. A quick lunch and back up the now working upper chair. Run two had slightly faster times.

The netting and gates were borrowed from Sun Valley, and they needed them back to start setting up for the World Cup finals in March. After the second run everyone then headed back and started rolling and hauling netting and gates to the bottom. An awards ceremony followed this clean up and everyone headed for home about 5 PM tired but with big smiles.

This was a wonderful event. The race officials did a great job, and the mountain staff were friendly and immensely helpful. The mountain is small and harkens back to a time when many of us learned to ski. I plan to go to this race again and encourage all to try it.



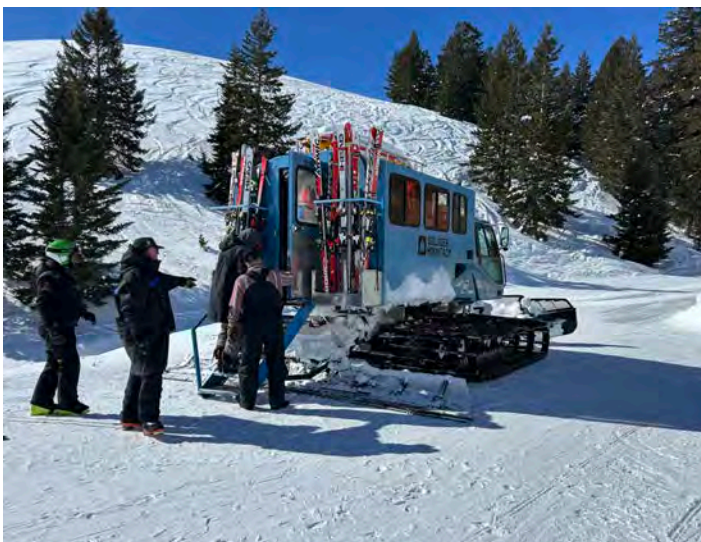
Rees Palermo, Don Smith, Deb Lewis, Jon Garey-Sage, and Tom Bullard.



Above: top of the hill & top of the course.

Left: middle of the course.

Jon Garey-Sage



Loading the back country snowcat when the lifts weren't running at Soldier Mountain.

Jon Garey-Sage



Hard labor setting up B netting.

Jon Garey-Sage

Scholarship Program updates

The Far West Masters Scholarship Program is now entering our 35th year. In return for funding, recipients forerun one of our Masters races and speak at the following awards ceremony. The experience has proven to be quite fun as it allows a junior athlete to show off their stuff and to thank the Masters in person for their support.

To donate to the Far West Masters Scholarship program, go to: farwestmasters.org/scholarship_program



Far West Masters scholarship recipients were forerunners and speakers at the Sugar Bowl races January 11-12.

Melissa House

Scholarship recipient update: Max Cooper (Summer, 2024)

Dear Far West Masters Scholarship Committee / Eddie,

First, thank you for all your support this season. It was invaluable. Also thank you for the opportunity to forerun and volunteer at the annual banquet. I really enjoyed forerunning and selling raffle tickets.

This season, I focused on my technique (movement between gates) and on my mental strength. I feel I had a great season with many highs and some lows including a back injury and some sickness. The accomplishments I am most proud of are as follows:

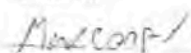
- Jackson Hole Super G series: 2nd, 4th and 5th
- 4th place overall for Far West (GS – 2nd, Super G – 2nd, 3rd and 6th)
- U16 Western Regionals: 3rd place slalom
- U16 Nationals: 13th place slalom (25th place first run, and 6th place second run)
- U16 Nationals: Super G training run: 5th (TPT coaches think I actually came in 2nd or 3rd but because not a scored race they did not DNF/DQ those kids in the posted results)
- U16 Nationals: Super G – Although I DNFed I was feeling great, and I clocked the highest speed at 112.50 kph and had very fast intermediate results

In addition to my skiing, I was diligent in my studies and currently have a 3.889 GPA and am hoping for a 4.0 for the spring semester.

I will be applying for the Far West Masters Scholarship for 2024-2025 and if accepted I would really like to attend the Copper camp in the fall. So hopefully, I could be considered for that.

Again, I really appreciate all your support.

Sincerely,


Max Cooper

Scholarship recipient update: Evi Barber (Summer, 2024)

It was very fun to see masters throughout the season and at one of the Diamond Peak slaloms in March. My season has been very busy and has gone well. Being FIS, I traveled to Wyoming, Minnesota, Washington, Colorado, and Idaho for races. Along with the local FIS series at Palisades in January, and just recently in April. This year was my true comeback season from a knee injury and I feel that I accomplished my goals. I was able to drop my points in slalom and gs.

While I trained some speed events, I was trying to avoid them for the most part this year just because of the risk of re-injury that goes up with speed. I am the most proud that I have completely altered my technique for the better. Which I feel like between freeskiing this spring and camps this summer I'll be able to progress that even further. This season I was able to have multiple top 15 finishes including in Minnesota and the Western Regionals in Washington.

I am still a Junior in high school, so I have at least one more year of FIS and after that I hope to pursue my ski career into college. Next season my goal is to train and race as much as possible to drop my points. The ultimate goal would be to race and be competitive on the FIS Elite circuit and in Norams.

I cannot thank masters enough for their support. I hope to see everyone on and off the hill in the future!



Far West Masters scholarship recipients were forerunners and speakers at the Alpine Meadows races January 31.

New member info & how to sign up for racing (and renewals if you haven't yet!)

What do I need to do?

There are two steps to signing up to race with Far West Masters each season. Please review these instructions and make sure you complete both steps.

- Racing with Far West Masters requires **BOTH** a Far West Masters Membership and a US Ski & Snowboard Alpine Master membership
- **Both memberships should be renewed** if you plan to race with us in the 2024-2025 season
- 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
- **Are you a new racer with Far West Masters?**
Follow step one and step two, and Mary Feddis, our Membership Director, will contact you after you've signed up

Step One: Far West Masters Race Sign-up

We are once again using Admin Ski Racing (ASR) for membership and race fees. Far West Masters membership for 2024-2025 is now open at at masters.AdminSkiRacing.com/farwest.

Once you log in to masters.AdminSkiRacing.com/farwest:

- You will be asked to review (or create) your account for the season.
 - You may need to update your contact and credit card information
 - You will be able to proceed after you have completed this step
- Click on Event Signup in the left sidebar (remember, races aren't listed yet - registration will open in November)
- Select the 2024-2025 Far West Masters membership purchase
- Check out and submit payment

The Far West Masters page on ASR has detailed instructions to help you with the system. If you need additional assistance, you can contact Mary Feddis at membership@farwestmasters.org.

Step Two: US Ski & Snowboard Sign-Up

Renew your US Ski & Snowboard membership


- Registration instructions are on the US Ski & Snowboard website:
<https://usskiandsnowboard.org/membership/registration-instructions>
- Renew by October 15th to get the best price!

Reminders for US Ski & Snowboard Sign-Up

- 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.



Dennis Yim and Mary Feddis

 Dennis Yim

Be a race official

Any member can learn to be a race official. Contact Lead Official Mark Mirviss & 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
- A helmet is also required for SL, a face guard is recommended
- Fluoro race waxes are NOT ALLOWED in any events, USSA Masters and FIS Masters (ban instituted in 2021)

Anyone can write for The Forerunner!

If you have an idea for a forerunner article, whether it's something you'd like to read about or something you're offering to write, let Melissa know!

The best way to get to know our racers is through race reports.

Thank you to all of our racers who have submit reports.

We'd love to hear about your experiences at our races! The best reports talk about the race in general but also include something personal about the race - a goal, or experience, or something funny or unusual that happened. For reference, a single column without photos is about 400 words. If you can submit photos, it's fewer words. One idea is to partner with another racer for photos at the race.

Have photos? We love those too! Photos, with or without an article, are appreciated. They can be emailed, or uploaded to a location of your choice.

If you have questions, or to submit an article or race report, email Melissa House, editor of The Forerunner at forerunner@farwestmasters.org.

2024-2025 Far West Masters Board

Here is the list of our board members for this season, effective June 1, 2024. New positions are noted in the list. If you are interested in participating on the board next year, please contact Rees Palermo.

President	Rees Palermo	president@farwestmasters.org	
Past President	Ray Tulloch		
Officials	Mark Mirviss	mmirviss@farwestmasters.org	
Race Scheduling	Mike Braun		
Membership	Mary Feddis	membership@farwestmasters.org	
Recruiting	Damian Palfini	recruiting@farwestmasters.org	new for 2024-25
Communications	Melissa House	forerunner@farwestmasters.org	
Secretary	Linda Crowell		
Treasurer	Hamish Butler		
Chief Technical Officer	Deb Lewis	dlewis@farwestmasters.org	



Far West Masters president Rees Palermo in the snowcat at Solder Mountain, ID.

Jon Garey-Sage



SKI SNOWBOARD ADAPTIVE

TOWN RACE LEAGUE

2025 SPRING SEASON

3-6PM EXHIBITION CHAIRLIFT RACE DOWN JULIA'S GOLD

SCHEDULE

3/5	Collaboration with North Tahoe Snow Fest	MARDI GRAS THEME
3/12		RETRO THEME
3/19		PALISADES PROS THEME
3/26		TIGHT & BRIGHT THEME
4/2		TIKI THEME
4/9		DENIM ON DENIM THEME

\$25 PER RACE

LATE FEE: \$20



REGISTER AT
ADMINSKIRACING.COM



*Registration will close the Monday prior to each race. Anyone who signs up after registration closes will be charged a late fee of \$20.

*Registrants will get an e-mail confirmation with an assigned number that they will need to present at the start.

* Must be 18+ to participate

*Please call (530) 581-7188 if you have any questions.

HH[®]



FRIDAY NIGHT RACE LEAGUE

THE FUN KICKS OFF
JANUARY 31ST AT 5:30 PM

UNDER THE LIGHTS
OF WORLD CUP



COST: \$125 PER RACER
TEAM FORMAT OF 5 RACERS WITH TOP 3 SCORED
WEEKLY RESULTS AND PRIZES WITH CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS
SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS WELCOME
RACES ARE 1/31, 2/6, 2/14, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, AND 3/28

CONTACT US
SOUTHSHORCOMMUNITYRACELEAGUE@GMAIL.COM

 HEAVENLY
FOUNDATION

REGISTER BY
SCANNING THE QR
CODE

SCAN ME

