

Far West Masters 2023-2024 Season Awards

Special Awards

Each year at the Far West Masters season awards banquet we make several special awards. The Rookie of the Year award recognizes racers who are new to our masters racing program and who demonstrate enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The Most-Improved Racer award recognizes racers who have been competing and who have demonstrated significant improvement in their racing. The Cantanho "Spirit of Masters" award honors a competitor who exemplifies participation with cheerfulness and joy, as well as contributions to our program to encourage others to share the enjoyment of masters racing. And new in 2019 is the President's Award, a special recognition award selected by the President of Far West Masters

These special awards are not solely about being the “best” racer – results are certainly important, that's how we measure progress, but it's also about enthusiasm, sportsmanship, tackling the competitive challenge provided by masters racing, and working to improve racing skills.

New Racer

Thanks to all the new racers who competed with us this year – it's great to have new faces and new friends; we look forward to seeing you all next year!

The New Racer award for 2023-2024 goes to:

- Damian Palfini (M04)

Most-Improved Racer

The most-improved award is usually our toughest choice – and also the most fun! It's an opportunity to recognize racers who've been working hard, sometimes for many years, and have demonstrated significant improvement throughout the season. These competitors aren't necessarily on the podium every week, but that's part of the satisfaction of this award. These are folks with a “Wow” factor from their fellow competitors who know them best – “Wow, they've been skiing great, they've really gotten better!” is a key factor in selecting these candidates.

The Most-Improved racer awards for 2023-2024 goes to:

- Dennis Yim (M07)

Teddy Cantanho "Spirit of Masters" Award

The Cantanho award was started in the 2012 season in memory of Teddy Cantanho, 89 years young when her racing career was cut short, to recognize a competitor who exemplifies participation with cheerfulness and joy, as well as contributions to our program.

The Cantanho "Spirit of Masters" award for 2023-2024 goes to:

- Cherie William

Even though unable to race herself this season due to injuries, Cherie continued to participate and contribute by officiating races, an important role in enabling our masters races.

President's Award

New in 2019, Far West Masters president Ray Tulloch started a new award which is decided solely by the president to recognize outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

The 2024 President's Award was presented to Don Smith to recognize him for Lifetime Achievement in Far West Masters. Not only is Don one of our oldest and longest-tenured competitors, he is a long-time TD official, served multiple terms as Far West Masters president, and is always among the first to volunteer for special projects and step up when assistance is needed. When Don arrives at a race, one of the first things he has to say is "How can I help?". Don continues to inspire all of us with his competitive fire, never more so than clicking into his beloved speed skis and plummeting down the steepest of venues with fearless abandon. Racer ready - go!!!

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

We had ten competitors who raced in all 10 races held this season: Dan Simmons (M11), Sam Crowell (M10), Nancy Gieske (W08), Scott Malmsten (M09), Doug Fulton (M09), Ken Bailey (M08), Stephen Bard (M08), Mike Braun (M08), Dennis Yim (M07), Ryan Ritchie (M05).

SEASON CLASS AWARDS - WOMEN

Class standings are scored by total World Cup points accumulated across each racer's best 75% (8 finishes) of the 10 scored Far West division races in the 2023-2024 competition season.

Total number of starts: 558

Average starters per race: 56

Ave starters SL: 55 (220 SL starts, 4 races)

Ave starters GS: 55 (221 GS starts, 4 races)

Ave starters SG: 59 (117 SG starts, 2 races)

Total number of competitors: 128 (108 men, 20 women)

Number of qualifiers: 131 (110 men, 21 women)

Average starts per racer: 4

Ave starts men: 4 (483 starts, 108 competitors)

Ave starts women: 4 (75 starts, 20 competitors)

NN. Racer - Points - num starts (num finishes)

Races: [

Mammoth GS, Mammoth SL, Alpine SL, Alpine SL, Northstar SG, Northstar SG,
Diamond Peak SL, Diamond Peak SL, Palisades GS, Palisades GS]

*** Racers must have 6 starts to qualify for the season awards. The minimum-starts rule may be waived for competitors 70 and over; at the discretion of the awards committee, it may also be waived on an individual basis to allow for exceptional conditions such as injury or illness. Not-qualified racers are noted with asterisks where appropriate. [Note: min starts eligibility count adjusted to reflect fewer number of races than originally scheduled]*

Women Class 12 (80-84)

1. Sarah Lemire - 400 - 4(4)

Women Class 10 (70-74)

1. Judy Colton - 560 - 6(6)

Women Class 8 (60-64)

1. Danielle Palermo - 300 - 4(3)

Women Class 7 (55-59)

1. Ingrid Braun - 460 - 6(5)

Women Open Class)

1. Linda Crowell (W09) - 580 - 9(9)

2. Nancy Gieske (W08) - 525 - 10(9)

3. Tricia Wall (W05) - 400 - 5(4)

*[*not eligible in WOP because not a FWM member: 3(t). Andrea Levy (W02) - 400 - 4(4)]*

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Men Class 12 (80-84)

1. Don Smith - 760 - 8(8)
2. Robert Barnett - 520 - 6(6)
3. Don Merrit - 480 - 6(6)

Men Class 11 (75-79)

1. Dan Simmons - 800 - 10(10)
2. Dave Anderson - 460 - 8(7)
3. Ronald Thomsen - 330 - 6(6)

Men Class 10 (70-74)

1. Brian Smith - 580 - 8(7)
2. Sam Crowell - 560 - 10(6)
3. Paul Smith - 430 - 7(7)

Men Class 9 (65-69)

1. Scott Malmsten - 700 - 10(7)
2. Rees Palermo - 500 - 8(7)
3. Rick Bergen - 420 - 6(6)

Men Class 8 (60-64)

1. Ken Bailey - 615 - 10(9)
2. Larry Bosche - 520 - 7(6)
3. Hamish Butler - 386 - 8(8)

Men Class 7 (55-59)

1. Dennis Yim - 720 - 10(9)
2. Marcus Rietema - 230 - 5(4)

Men Class 6 (50-54)

1. James Sanchirico - 360 - 4(4)
2. Joey Giovara - 250 - 5(4)

*[*not eligible in M06 due to insufficient starts: 2. Patrick Riordan - 260 - 3(3)]*

Men Class 5 (45-49)

1. Hun Jong Yoo - 300 - 4(4)

Men Open Class)

1. Ryan Ritchie (M05) - 602 - 10(9)
2. Mike Shklovski (M05) - 505 - 8(7)
3. Mihai Filimon (M05) - 430 - 6(6)

SEASON BIB AWARDS

TOP FIVE WOMEN

1. Linda Crowell (W09) - 580 - 9(9)
2. Nancy Gieske (W08) - 525 - 10(9)
3. Tricia Wall (W05) - 400 - 5(4)
4. Deb Lewis (W09) - 360 - 6(6)

*[*not eligible because not a FWM member: 3(t). Andrea Levy (W02) - 400 - 4(4)]*

TOP TEN MEN

1. Ryan Ritchie (M05) - 602 - 10(9)
2. Mike Shklovski (M05) - 505 - 8(7)
3. Mihai Filimon (M05) - 430 - 6(6)
- 4(t). Mike Braun (M08) - 400 - 10(9)
- 4(t). David Law (M02) - 400 - 4(4)
6. Wences Lada Munoz (M08) - 361 - 8(8)
7. Doug Fulton (M09) - 328 - 10(10)
8. David Piermarini (M08) - 231 - 8(7)
9. Radek Vingralek (M07) - 211 - 9(6)
10. Jonathan Garey-Sage (M09) - 205 - 8(8)

[bib tiebreaker: bib 4 goes to Mike Braun based on outstanding results despite his advanced age, with bib 5 awarded to exciting "rookie" racer David Law]