

Minutes of Annual Meeting
USSA Masters National Working Group
Okemo MT Ski Area
Ludlow, VT

March 19, 2014

I. Welcome, sign in and call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 PM

II. Approval of March 20, 2013 Annual Meeting Working Group Minutes – passed without adjustments

Working Group & other members in attendance

Steve Slivinski – National Committee Chairman

Bill Skinner – USSA Coordinator email – bskinner@ussa.org

Robby Cravens – Pacific Northwest email - rtabletopsebroadband.com

Ryan Fuller – Central email – ryan1541@gmail.com

Bill McCollum – East email bmccollum@skiracing.com

Deb Lewis – Far West djlewis@acm.org

Absent – Alaska

Bill Tomcich – Rocky Mountain email – btomcich@stayaspensnowmass.com

Lisa Densmore – Northern email densmore1@aol.com

Others in attendance

Greg Gill - Secretary

Kip & Lucy Blake – New England Masters Race Coordinators

Derek Griggs – NE Masters

Al Sevigny – NE Masters

Paul Rich – NE Masters

Pepi Neubauer – NY Masters

Tom Jones - Writer

Jack Eisenschmid – NY Masters

III. Division Chairpersons Reports

Intermountain Report – This year has been a good year for snow. Good snow leads to good participation at Park City and Jackson Hole. Sun Valley saw record participation this season. We hosted an FIS Western Masters Championship in 2013 sponsored by Phillips 66. Our goal was 200 racers we recorded 140 racers. 10 of the 140 athletes were from outside the United States. We learned from our sponsored races that 2 SG and 2 SL may have specialized effect that may have contributed to a limited participation. The weather during this race was also a limiting factor to achieving our goal of 200 racers.

East Report – Good season! Membership status is up. Participation at GS good at 100+, SL continues to be average at 75-65. We attribute the increase in membership to temporary memberships & clinics at Mt Wachusetts, MA and Cochran's Hill, VT. We hosted the Masters National at Okemo Mt. this year 2014. We also hosted a non-Eastern USSA race (4 events) at Whiteface, NY. We attracted 1/3 of the field from ASRA racers and selected Sport Insurance to provide insurance coverage for the officials and the event.

Central Report – Weather was challenging us with the 40 races we had scheduled. Unfortunately 9 of these races had to be canceled due to weather. The Kosnick Ski Camps at Boyne Mt. were a huge success. We recorded 40-44 adult participants. There are a large number of beer leagues that we are targeting for next year. One example is our plan to host 2 day camps at Wilmot Hill , Chicago. With some support from Steve Porino at Vail we may realized greater participation. We continue to control our flexibility in conducting races by moving gates and race crew to ski areas that can provide timing assistance to run successful Masters Races.

Pacific Northwest Report – The weather from December 10, 2013 until January 26, 2014 we had no snow! Now Mt Bachelor has over 100' of snow. Early in the season Mt Hood was a challenge to schedule and host races when competition for hills space was limited. Our number continue to be solid because of Anne's hard work. We also have started a Women's group with Lisa Densmore coaching and leadership. We hope this will continue to grow.

Far West Report – Winter as we would like it to be skipped the Far West. It has been warm and dry. We continue to have a core group of 60-70 Masters. Mammoth Mt has been providing good training. Lake Tahoe is just getting started.

Northern Report – We had 1 race this year at Red Lodge. We shared services with Intermountain Region. Big Sky and Red Lodge are 2 areas that we are partnering with and support our efforts.

National Ski Clinics – Led by Lisa Densmore 8 ski racing clinic (NASTAR format) were conducted for women that were interested in skiing and ski racing. This is designed to encourage women to come and race in Masters Ski Racing.

IV. Bill Skinner USSA Masters Coordinators Report

USSA Coordinator report – National membership is slightly up. Temporary membership forms will be used again next year. We need to report on how many Temporary Forms did we use in 2013. Please let Bill know. If we expect to continue to use the Temporary Member Form as a means to attract new members we **MUST** complete the forms completely and accurately. In 2013/14 we converted 33 new members to date out of 145 available funded temps. Next year we need to demonstrate the value of the Temporary Membership form and that we can submit the forms which need to be complete and accurate and in a timely manner. Also any changes to the Temporary Form program needs to be communicated ideally before the race season starts so we don't have any mid-course corrections. Can we have Temporary Membership form on line so it can be used in advance of Race Day? Answer: Some divisions have that capability now. The application in reality is no different than a USSA member.

USSA will continue the funded temporary membership program (100) for 2015 for **first time** Masters racers.

We had a terrific DH here at Okemo for the last 3 days – thank you Okemo staff and race workers.

Next year's Masters Nationals will be at Sun Valley, ID Mar. 16-20 SC/GS/GS/SL

Eastern Regional still needs to be determined.

National Downhill still needs to be determined.

FIS races will be held this year at Aspen on February 5-8th. SG/GS/GS/SL. Please note special homologation and race requirements in the Masters Handbook.

We held the FIS races at Park City this year 2SG and 2SL this was perceived as too specialized events and could have restricted participation.

We also reviewed USSA Masters brochures by Division for their "fit" with recruitment. All use and support the brochures.

Electronic results must be submitted to archive in data base and on Web site.

Review the USSA Masters Time line 2014-2015

July 15 Revised text to Bill Skinner for inclusion in 2015 Competition Guide

Aug 15 Division Race Schedule deadline

Sept 7 Competition Guide on-line

Oct 15 Fall newsletter input deadline

TBA Eastern Regional Championship

TBA National Downhill Championships

Feb 5-8 FIS Masters Cup Aspen SG/GS/GS/SL

Agenda item #1

a. Ryan Fuller 3rd party insurance

Key criteria in 3rd party insurance is the coverage for Race Officials (TD's, RF, and Course Setters). They must meet the same criteria (in the one example of a 3rd party carrier) that USSA & FIS require for certification. It is not clear how officials would get credit for officiating an event if no CODEX and or Officials report and supporting race information for non-scored races is sent to USSA. No one knew the comparison coverage detail between USSA to a 3rd Party Insurance so we could make a comparative decision. Eastern Division ran a 3rd party insured race with ASRA as a means to attract new racers. The officials all came from Lake Placid and were covered under their 3rd party insurance policy. Canada had used Sport Insurance for their program but rumor had it they had dropped them as the insurance carrier.

Related to this topic was a review of the planned races and a listing of racers that had sent in Race files and supporting documentation. There is an opportunity to improve the completion of sending in non-scored races that have been completed from Divisions. At least every Division had one missing race.

b. Ryan Fuller New USSA online registration

Group was for staying the course with Ski Race Reg.com. This is a service we have bought and paid for and see no advantage for other on line registration system.

Agenda item #3 Lisa Densmore - Seeding

Seeding proposal - voted on and passed unanimously

For Divisions – Divisions are encouraged to use a Random draw for 1st run

2nd run is a flip based upon time from slowest to fastest

For Regional & Nationals – Seeding 1st run

2nd run slowest to fastest in class (and gender)

Note – this does not apply to FIS events.

VI Old Business

Ski Hall of Fame application submissions.

Lisa Densmore & Bill McCollom are forming a committee and draft candidates application

VII New Business

1. Who is the Division contact for submission and processing of race results electronically. A review of what venues transmitted results was slim. Extra effort expected next year with instructions and follow up. Bill Skinner to follow up with contact for each division to ensure it happens in 2015.

Supporting document disseminated

1. Agenda for March 19, 2014
2. Annual Minutes from USSA Masters Working Group March 20, 2013 Big Ski, MT
3. Membership Summary Report
4. How to complete a Temporary Membership form
5. Masters Race Code status report Processed & not processed
6. Running order history 2010 and 2008
7. Schedule for Masters National at Sun Valley 2015
8. Phillips 66 FIS Masters CUP & Western Championship.