

What the Super Combined can do for you, or...

The Super Combined event has been one of the most popular on the Masters tour. Next year the Super Combined at the Park City National Championships will count for the scoring in the Division Cup and the selection for the Spyder National Team. Here is a great tech article by Ron Kipp. Save this article. –Bill Skinner

older brother, Ivica.

The SC has been good to the Croatian siblings. Every year Janica won the combined globe it lead her to the overall World Cup title. This year was Ivica's first combined title, and guess what, he also won the overall title! While obviously the points from the combined contributed to the overall title, it should also be pointed out that the "skills" needed for the combined may have contributed the most to the Kostelić's strategy in winning those overall globes. One of the best aspects of the combined event is

...If you want to get faster do what Kostelić did this season

While the super combined is a new event for Master's ski racing, combining runs of slalom and speed has been around for a long time. In fact, the combined was the only alpine event during the first winter Olympics in 1936. In 2005 the super combined (SC) was introduced by the FIS. Not your father's "paper race" of the past, which just added up a slalom race and a downhill, the modern SC is a standalone race with its own speed and slalom section. In 2005, the first three World Cup super combined events were won by Janica Kostelić. This past season, 2011, the World Cup combined trophy was also won by a skier named Kostelić,... although this time it was Janica's



that it encourages athletes to train tech and speed. A condition that U.S. Men's Head Coach Sasha Rearick likes about the combined event. The result is a more well-rounded skier that will excel to even a higher level in either slalom and/or speed.

Ski racing technique requires a range of each skiing skill. To perform these skills requires intensity and duration adjustments that need to fit the parameters of the turn and run. On the men's World Cup last year, a slalom turn

Continued page 8

These companies support Masters Ski Racing, so please support them!







Skiing on Autumn Leaves by Steve Slivinski, Masters national chairman



As my skis slowly sink into to the soft, spring snow, I want to reflect on what I consider an awesome racing year. At the beginning of the season we got bodacious amounts of snow, then toward the holidays we got more snow, and finally at the end of the season, it's still falling. As a result, our racing across the country has been more than superb all winter. The

Western Regionals were blessed with 4 days of California sun. The Nationals at Copper Mountain were cold, hard, and fast. The Eastern regionals were, well, the typical Eastern Regionals, made for hardy New Englanders. The long trail of competition is littered with tears and joy. As a example of this journey for glory, here is but a hint of my winter odyssey: 7,000 miles driven, 33 races run, 25 overpriced lunches eaten, 25 lift tickets purchased, 20 pounds of equipment carried, and 18 pair of skis scraped and brushed. 17 hotel carpets waxed, 15 miles of parking lots walked, 10 pounds of salt and dirt washed off my car, 6 states visited, 5 pounds of edge filings, 4 boxes of fluoro wax ironed on, 3 bronze medals, 2 raffle

prizes, and a partridge in a pear tree. Isn't Masters ski racing a wonderful sport?

I want to congratulate the Eastern division for their outstanding Division Cup win on a challenging and tenacious Copper Mountain course. It just goes to show that a little adversity leads to greatness.

Now to the future: next year, the Nationals will be at Park City, UT, and the Western Regionals will be held at Vail, CO. Shocking as it seems, USSA Masters is taking the step into the digital age. Next year, you will be able to sign up for the Nationals on the Internet. Because we are using the Internet for the Nationals signup, there will be no division quotas, so be prepared for first-come, firstserved. You'll need to pay attention to the fall newsletter for the procedures. Also next season, we will use the Super Combined for the Division Cup and the Spyder team computations at the Nationals.

Finally, we could never make Masters racing work without the tireless efforts of the division chairmen and chairwomen, the financial support of our sponsors, and most importantly the participation and dedication of all you racers. Keep those ski tips heading down hill.

Masters Membership News by Bill Skinner, USSA Masters Manager



Our Volunteers

Big thanks to all our division leaders for another successful Masters season. Masters racing works due to the grass roots volunteer efforts of your local leaders.

Sponsors

Skier's Edge has once again backed us for the 2011 season. Thank you, Joel Loane, and your hard-working event crew. Jim Ruscitto, Bill Tabar and Molecule F have backed the National Speed Series for the 7th year and have committed to the 2012 Speed Series. EZ Pak gave us the support to do a membership drive to NASTAR Platinum medalists. The plan for 2012 is to expand the drive to include Gold medalists.

National committee meeting

Representatives from all our divisions gathered at Copper to review the state of Masters affairs. It was a good session with a trading of ideas for the future and what is working in their regions.

Some decisions of note:

Online registration will be used for the 2012 Masters Nationals at Park City. Division quotas have been dropped in favor of firstcome, first-served sign up. Check our fall newsletter for details in November.

The Super Combined race at the Nationals will be included in the scoring for both the Division Cup and the 2013 Spyder National Team. The class combined awards will continue to use SG/GS/SL.

Have a great summer. Hope to see some of you at Mt. Hood this summer!

2011 Skiers Edge Masters Nationals

Copper Mtn. rolled out the carpet for the 2011 Nationals. For the first time in 15 years, Copper is back hosting major USSA events. Despite challenging weather for the Super G, all events came off on time. It was a high-quality event, and hopefully the first of many more. Congrats to all that attended. Results can be found at http://ussamasters.org/2011/nationals

Eastern Division claims the Cup!

Eastern has reclaimed the Division Cup. Leading the scoring wire-to-wire, the 22member team overcame the last-day pressure to secure the win.







SPRING 2011

Summer Training Tips

Don't let this season's racing achievements slip away into the summer sun. The Skier's Edge will help you train hard all summer long so you can rip turns right out of the gate next race season!

Here are a few summer training tips to help you stay in top condition for the podium next year.

- Do 5-6 high-speed one minute sprints, at 4 minute intervals during a 20 minute aerobic session on your Skier's Edge. These high-speed sprints should be at 100 turns per minute. This will rapidly develop your anaerobic tolerance, give you a great cardiovascular workout, and improve your coordination, balance and strength.
- 2. Try to increase your workouts by 100 turns per day.
- One-legged squats: Do 5 squats on each leg. Bend no further then 90° while holding each squat for 30 seconds. Repeat set 4 more times.
- Spend 10-15 minutes stretching and allowing your muscles to cool down. This helps prevent injuries.
- Make sure you're maintaining a regular exercise routine to stay in shape and feeling great!

Racing at Your Best!





Ted Ligety on his World Cup Plyometric Power'

Left to Right: Tim Hill, James Thoman, Greg Sarkis, Bill Skinner, Eric Klemme, John Droege, Amy Lanzel, Jessie McAleer, Anna Droege, Richard Slabinski, Victor Roy, Deb Mackenzie, Jen Kaufman

8 GREAT YEARS

What a great year for Masters ski racing, congratulations to all that participated! Special thanks to all the Masters racers who provided their time and effort to make each event successful.

This was the 8th year for The Skier's Edge Co. to be the title sponsor for Masters racing. Our company's goal is to help individual racers improve as well as elevate Masters racing to a highly visible level - one never achieved before. The added bonus is the magnificent venues, and most of all. vou. the loval Masters racer!!

"Skier's Edge is the sponsor that makes this all happen; if you don't have one you won't make it up here on the podium!" Bill Skinner • Masters National Coordinator & National Champion Congratulations to the Skier's Edge Masters Team members who made it to the FIS Masters World Criterium this year. The races took place in the charming country of Andorra, on the highest peak in the Pyrenees Mountains. Not only was the countryside breathtaking, but the events were fantastic. Team members made a big impression with 2 gold medals, 5 silver medals and 1 bronze!

World's was just the beginning for our Masters Team earning multiple medals. At this year's US Skier's Edge Masters Nationals, despite the wide variety of climate changes, all Skier's Edge racers finished strong. A big THANK YOU to all that represented Skier's Edge so well.

800.225.9669 ext.309 www.SkiersEdge.com/309

To get more training info, tips and tricks, sign up with our eNewsletter! Plus, get special Master's Discounts! Sign up at SkiersEdge.com/309



FIS Alpine Masters World Criterium March 27-31, 2012 at Mammoth Mountain, California • by Bob Davis



Mammoth Mountain, California, has been announced as the 2012 venue for the Masters World Criterium, one of the most important events on the Alpine skiing calendar. This

signals the return of the Masters Criterium to the USA, which has not hosted the prestigious event since 2005 at Sun Valley, Idaho. Mammoth Mountain race director Beat Huber and USSA director of Masters racing Bill Skinner were instrumental in bringing this exciting international event back to the USA. The announcement was made April 8, 2011 by FIS Masters president Harald Hebert from Kitzbuehel, Austria and USA FIS delegate Bob Davis, from southern California, at the 2012 calendar meeting in Sestriere, Italy. The thought of "coming to America" for the Criterium created a lot of excitement among the European team captains in the room. Bob Davis fielded questions from the crowd. Final approval is anticipated at the June 1 FIS calendar meeting in Slovenia, after which full event information will be available from links at www.mammothmountain.com and www.FIS-Ski.com. All skiers over age 30 are welcome. Participants must hold a current FIS card to register. The organizing committee will host the event in accordance with the International Ski Competition rules (I.C.R. Masters) of FIS. Featured races are SG, GS and SL, and conclude on Saturday with a one-run Masters Cup GS.

This past February, it was Andorra's turn to welcome the best skiers in the world in the Alpine Masters category to the beautiful slopes of the Arcalis for the 2011 Criterium. The USA had 10 competitors including medalists Pepi Neubauer and Carolyn Beckedorff (Eastern), Knut Olberg and Tim Hill (Pacific Northwest), and Jennifer Kaufman (Rocky Mtn.). Over 400 skiers aged 30–95, representing over 18 countries, enjoyed fine European skiing, social events and new friends.





Molecule F National Speed Series



466 racers competed in Molecule F speed series events in 2011. Fourteen races were held in five divisions. The usual suspects attended, with one surprising, yet not unexpected, result. Luke Keenan from the Pacific Northwest finally put it all together and took top honors for A/B men. Runnerup last year, Luke's speed has just gotten better and better. "Run speed to get good at speed" is his motto. Chris Probert (IM) was second. Rauli Karjalainen (IM) repeated as men's group D winner (60 and over), edging Pepi Neubauer from the East. Debra Lewis (FW) may be slight in stature but long on guts, as she took the ladies' overall for the first time. Heidi Flood (IM) was second.

The Molecule Trophy and custom belt buckles were awarded to class winners,

top three for season and the SG awards ceremony at Copper Mtn. The series will be back again next year, thanks to continued support from our sponsors Jim Ruscitto, Bill Tabar, Molecule F and all our speed venues.

Overall Molecule F Trophy standings

A/B -	- Men (age 20–59)				
1	Luke Keenan (M01, PN)	185			
2	Christopher Probert (M03, IM)	112			
3	Matt Savage (M01, FW)	100			
4	Erik Klemme (M06, RM)	91			
5	Don Johnson (M06, RM)	62			
D – N	Men (age 60–90)				
1	Rauli Karjalainen (M08, IM)	134			
2	Pepi Neubauer (M09, EA)	85			
3	Chip Ford (M08, RM)	57			
4	Wiebe Gortmaker (M09, RM)	52			
5(t)	Dave Garner (M09, FW)	50			
5(t)	Victor Roy (M08, IM)	50			
C – All Women					
1	Deb Lewis (W07, FW)	94			
2	Heidi Flood (W07, IM)	79			
3	Lauren MacMath (W01, RM)	72			
4	Jeanette Saylor (W06, RM)	61			
5	Julie Rolfe (W07, FW)	57			
Complete results at					

http://ussamasters.org/2011/nss



	Women
Class	Competitor
13	
12	Virginia Reed (IM, 1-1-x)
11	
10	Anna Droege (IM, 1-1-1)
9	Nancy Auseklis (IM, 1-1-3)
8	Rosemary Moschel (IM, 1-1-1)
7	Debra Mackenzie (IM, 4-1-1)
6	Victoria Valar (RM, 2-2-2)
5	Lisa Densmore (EA, 1-1-1)
4	Jessie McAleer (EA, 1-1-1)
3	Elyse Tanner (RM, 1-1-2)
2	Dana Alexandrescu (IM, 1-1-1)
1	Jennifer Higgins (RM, 1-1)

Men

Competitor

John Droege (IM, 1-1-1) Alphonse Sevigny (EA, 1-1-1) Carl Fullman (IM, 2-1-3) Lee Kaufman (RM, 1-2-1) Pepi Neubauer (EA, 1-1-1) Victor Roy (IM, 1-5-1) Pierre Jeangirard (FW, 1-1-3) Erik Klemme (RM, 1-2-2) Timothy Hill (PN, 1-1-1) Ara Papazian (FW, 4-3-1) Kevin Hendrickson (RM, 1-1-2) James Thoman (EA, 2-1-1) Matthew Savage (FW, 1-1-1)

2011 Skier's Edge National Championships Copper Mountain, Colorado

The 2012 Spyder National Masters team is selected from the top finisher in each age class at the 2011 national championships, based on total world cup points in the 3-event SG-GS-SL combined.

NOTES

W11 – Grace Oaks of Canada won the combined with 1-x-1 finishes; there were no other finishers in this age class

W06 – Andrea Esson of Canada won the combined with 3-1-1 finishes; Victoria Valar of Rocky Mountain is the top American finisher and thus named to the Spyder U.S. National Masters team.

There were no ties.













Anne Nordhoy has stepped down as FIS Competitor Representive. Thank you, Anne for all your hard work. Bob Davis will fill this position going forward. Bob has been instrumental in the effort to bring the Masters World Championships to Mammoth Mtn. in March 2012.











Completed career

Our sport is a lifelong pursuit and unfortunately, over time, we lose friends and fellow racers to life's travails. We always remember our past experiences and the enjoyment we give to each other. Recently we lost DJ Tengdin. Our hearts go out to his family and to all our friends that will not be joining us on the hill in the coming years.

Ted Johnson demonstrates an alternate route down Copper Mountain.



PNSA By Ann Ozuna

www.PNSAmasters.org "La Niña" winter came early

to the Pacific northwest with record snows in November

and stayed late into spring. Soft snow limited the training days, but racers showed up at the races in numbers to meet, race and have a great time on powder skis when not racing. Racers at the PNSA Championships at Mt. Bachelor were greeted with sub-zero wind chills and new snow—on April 8th! This past season was notable for the accomplishments of PNSA racers standing on the podium after all the gates were run at the



Nationals in Colorado as well as the folks who were on "injured reserve" and unable to compete. PNSA finished 5th in the regional competition. Individual medalists were:

Luke KeenanMen's Class 1 Third PlaceTim HillMen's Class 5 ChampionRich RobertsonMen's Class 10, Runner UpJim PhillipsMen's Class 10, Third Place

Tim Hill was selected top USSA Male Racer, finishing with 0.00 race points and a sweep of all events.

Luke Keenan loves to go fast and proved it by winning the Molecule F speed series of SG and DH around the country.

On injured reserve and unable to compete at Nationals were Willi Schmidt, Knut Olberg and Willie Scroggins. Also injured, and missing a part of the season, were Janet Vincent, Anna Nystrom, Jack Daniels, and Ward Buckingham. Here's wishing them all a speedy recovery and a reunion at Summer Fun Nationals at Mt Hood in July.

PNSA crowned our season-long champions at the finals in Bend, OR, on April 10th. Class 7 champion Debbie Coleman amassed the highest total of World Cup points for the season with consistent performance, despite missing several race weekends. This season we had "Three Musketeers" earn the Road Warrior title, making all the race weekends, all season long. Brad Scott, last year's road warrior, was joined by Hugh Mitchell of class 6 and Larry Konstacky of class 7 at Bend for a photo op. The largest class was Men's Class 6, with 39 different racers scoring World Cup points during the season. Men's class 5 had 33 competitors scoring points.

This year's "last run of the year" drama played out in Ladies' Class 6, where season leader going into the race Nancy Riley slid past the wrong side of a slalom gate and had to hike for her life to hold off Karen Kilian to claim gold in the class.

This year, we crowned champions in nearly every class. Season-long champions by class are:

Class 1	2 Janet Vincent	Kristian Berg		
Class 1	1 Sheila Lewens	Charles Evans		
Class 1	0 Carolyn Phillip	s Jim Phillips		
Class 9	Alice Jacklet	Ward Buckingham		
Class 8	Ann Ozuna	Jeff Stier		
Class 7	Debbie Colema	n Brad Scott		
Class 6	Nancy Riley	Hugh Mitchell		
Class 5	Linda Shallow	Tim Aid		
Class 4	Jennifer Aspass			
		David Schreitmuller		
Class 3	Lori Fruci	Daren Postfooroosh		
Class 2	Fast Racer Wanted! Sam Avaiusini			
Class 1	Melissa "Moose" Dettmer			
		Luke Keenan		

Full results are posted at www.pnsamasters.org.

Challenge yourself against your friends in the gates again next year!

Central

Ryan Fuller, chair



www.midwestmasters.org This past season was one of change for Midwest Masters in the Central Division. With the loss of our longtime Race

Director, Steve Lindemer, and with new challenges facing the organization, we've used this season to set ourselves in a new direction. There were many firsts this year.

The first major first this year was the naming of Mike Auge as our race director. Mike brought significant racing experience, a great attitude, and a new degree of organization to our races. Though losing Steve, he left no question that our races are in good hands. We look forward to having Mike continue his work in the coming years.

SkiRaceReg was also contracted this year to host all of the essential online services for Midwest Masters. We made the decision to utilize the system designed by Doug Briggs to support most of our online needs outside of direct marketing and email communications. We look forward to continuing to extend the use of this system next year.

This past fall, we held our first annual Steak Fry fundraiser. Although attendance was lower than expected, we plan to use this experience to continue building up excitement for an annual fall fundraiser. Next season, we anticipate incorporating some new ideas for fundraising, such as a bib auction (as we will have fancy new bibs next year), and even a Midwest Masters Fantasy Ski League, using our own skiers paired with those from the World Cup.

Also new this year was our first-ever cooperatively-hosted race with the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council (CMSC), held at Marquette Mountain in upper Michigan. We had well over 100 racers at this event and Midwest Masters generated over 40 temporary licenses - hopefully convertible into full memberships next year. We are also exploring holding more cooperative events with other organizations such as the Michigan Alpine Competition Council (MACC) and USSA Region I. It should also be noted that membership prospecting in general was very successful with Midwest Masters this year, as we recruited well over 70 members to race with us using temporary licenses.

Finally, Midwest Masters conducted its first ever member survey, which will be used to help improve our level of service to our membership. This past season we saw our membership more than double, to over 170 members. This is down from our best years, but it is well up over the previous three years. We hope to continue this trend, and we see this survey as one tool we can utilize to ensure we are responding to our membership's concerns and desires.

We have lots of other plans in store for next year, such as increased spending on awards and recognition, expanded use of online registration, and some new ideas for hosting races that are similar to the precedent set with CMSC this past season.

The Midwest Masters board of directors plans to work hard over the summer to ensure continued success next year. Our motto is "Take it to the next level," and we intend to do so in 2012! See you on the hill! Figure 2. lvica Kostelić with extreme hip angulation in the slalom during the SC at Bansko Bulgaria this season.

averaged 0.82 seconds for the winner, while the average downhill turn took 2.92 seconds. The downhill turn took three and a half times longer to complete compared to the slalom turn. While the time per turn is less in slalom the average speed is much greater in downhill. Two conflicting components. Phil Mahre had an interesting way to view it. The threetime World Cup overall winner said that slalom was the faster event because the gates come at you much quicker.

So how does skiing two seemingly opposite events help each individual event? When you expand the parameters of the technique you end up developing the finer aspects of that technique. Take for example the baseball batter warming up with the weighted bat. The extra effort needed to accelerate the heavy bat, along with keeping the bat at the intended trajectory stimulates the batters neuromuscular system. By challenging the neuromuscular system, the batters muscles are trained to deeper level which will be needed when he confronts an 84 mph curve ball. The same is true in ski racing. Let's examine Ivica's edging and rotation skills with regards to turn speed and radius.

Speed & Radius

There are significant differences in speed and turn radius between the two events. Increasing speed and/or decreasing the turn radius makes the turn more difficult to hold. The technique to handle speed and turn radius are different, although within the same skill set.

Edging

One reason we edge the ski is to maintain line. While the edge angle may be similar in both events, the technique used to edge is different. In slalom there is greater angulation (Fig. 2) and in speed there is more inclination (Fig. 3). The angulated position of Ivica in figure 2 does not require him to move his upper body as far into the turn, making it a quick position to move from and to. In speed events when the external forces are much greater and there is more time, the skier can move his entire body into the turn. In figure 3 Ivica has lined up his entire body, essentially stacking the bones of his skeleton so he can be in a stronger position to resist the high external forces. While not a fast position to move from, Ivica is in a very strong position to resist the large external forces of the Kitzbühel downhill.

We must be careful to not pigeonhole these two edging strategies, always assuming that slalom will always be angulated and speed inclined. In figure 4, Ivica uses a combination of angulation and inclination. The ability to blend the differing edging strategies was essential for Ivica this season in winning the combined and overall globes.

Rotation

Slalom turns are tighter and go across the hill more than ever before. This requires reorienting of the skis from left to right through a large range. In essence, the skis point farther to the left and father to the right than in the past. This reorienting can be performed with a high degree of carving or with a stivot. Either way, it has to happen quickly. To do it quickly, Ivica keeps his upper body facing down the hill (Fig. 5). This is not a passive position, but a concurrent ro-





Figure 5. Counter in response to the extreme direction changes at Kranjska Gora slalom this year by Ivica Kostelić. Figure 3. Ivica Kostelić using inclination to stack his skeleton to resist the high forces in the downhill portion of the combined at Kitzbühel this season.





Figure 4. A mixture of angulation and inclination shows the versatility of Ivica Kostelić on his way to 2nd place at the Zagreb slalom this season.

By Ron Kipp Photos: Getty Images

Ron Kipp is the USSA Alpine Sport Education Manager. He has worked with the U.S. and Norwegian Ski Teams.





tation of the upper body against or opposite the lower body. If the turn requires reorienting the skis 95 degrees from one turn to the next, then Ivica rotates his upperbody 95 degrees relative to his lower body. This has a dual purpose. First, it creates a very fast turning impetus, and second, this allows the hip a greater range of motion, which is needed for the more extreme angulation in the modern slalom. Notice Ivica in figure 6 utilizing a similar stance in SG, going over a roll at Kitzbühel. The amount of counter with his hips and shoulders coincides with the amount of ski tip lead change. This gives him more hip range-of-motion in which to absorb the larger terrain feature. Being able to resist these large forces in speed with a foundation from the technical events gives Ivica a huge advantage as an overall skier. Conversely, Ivica has learned from the high forces and rotational tempo how to hold and pace the quick slalom turn. This is why Ivica never seems to be scrambling in

slalom. While 0.82 seconds may not seem like much time for some skiers, Ivica has learned how to fit or adapt the rhythm of his slalom turn into that winning time period. Not too fast, and not too slow of a cadence.

Ivica Kostelić has always been a great slalom skier, and by adding speed training he has learned how to respond to the large external forces. He has not turned into a "speed skier" per se, but a "skier," a more all-around skier that that can handle a greater variety of situations. This explains why Ivica was fast in both events this season (1st in SL, 3rd in SG). He has learned the extremes of the skills. This results in more technique options for Ivica. He is now more well-rounded and able to respond appropriately to any ski situation.



Figure 6. Ivica Kostelić "counters" in SG to increase range-of-motion in the hip, enabling him to absorb terrain at Kitzbühel this year.



New England Masters

Nadine Price, chair www.nemasters.org It was the best of times; it was the worst of times...well, maybe that's a bit melodra-

matic, but as I reflect on the season now coming to a close, I am sitting by the fire looking out at the snow banks in my yard, which are stubbornly refusing to yield to spring, or as it's known here in Vermont, "still winter," and wondering if I will ever be able to hike up Pico mountain without snowshoes. Did I mention it's mid-April?

It has been an amazing season for skiing here in the East. And it's not over. Killington has reported nearly 300 inches of snow this season, and that's using a Bureau of Weights and Measures-approved ruler! And unlike most seasons, there were no major meltdowns. If every season here was this good, we would probably have trouble convincing folks to get off their fat skis and pull out the race skis! Of course, the ironic downside of all that snow is that it can make racing a bit more challenging. In the end, we lost only one regular season race to too much snow. Unfortunately, it was the much-anticipated Stratton SG. After losing this race last year to an extremely bizarre storm, we are sure that the third time will be the charm and it will be a fantastic race next season! Also unfortunate was our loss of Speed Week, due principally to venue vagaries, but this will most definitely be back next season. The weather, in the form of precipitation, fog, temperature variations-you name it-did dictate cancellation of our Regional GS and caused our planned three-day finals to be condensed to a one-run GS and onerun SL in a single day. And so much for the "worst of times!" We managed to get in a lot of great ski racing between the powder days, and sometimes, between the powder runs!

We kicked off the season with a mid-December SL at Cochran's, a small mountain just outside of Burlington, VT, owned by a family of the same name and known (not coincidentally) for the Olympians—also of the same name—it has produced. The race was held the day before their official opening, so it was a private party, and a great one by all accounts. With several Cochrans in attendance, Jimmy served as course setter and starter and Marilyn served lunch. It was a unique opportunity to hobnob with ski racing royalty and support an American ski racing institution.

Throughout January we visited many favorite venues and brought back an old favorite that has not been on the schedule for some time. We returned to Waterville for the first GS of the Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS Series. The race was an unqualified success, and the venue one we hope to keep. In spite of not being able to run the SG, Stratton managed to pull off the Janeway Cup, one of our most popular races each year. And the event did not disappoint. The day was clear and cold and there were a lot of freshies available beside the course. But the track held up well and provided a great canvas for some amazing skiing. Local favorite Carson Thurber dusted the men's field but Pat Mc-Namara, twenty years his senior, finished second in the overall and easily took the Janeway Cup, awarded to the fastest man and woman over 40. In the women's field, Lisa Densmore laid down two exceptional runs, winning both and seizing the Janeway as well. The final week in January took us once again to Mount Washington Valley for the 71st running of the Gibson Cup at Mount Cranmore. The Gibson Cup is awarded to the fastest man and woman after combining the GS and SL. Each year, this event brings out a number of folks that have raced with us more regularly in the past but don't currently make it to a lot of races, so it was great to have Luke Heibert out there contending for the Gibson. After winning the GS on Friday he served notice that he was there to win. He left the door open a tiny crack in the SL but no one could squeeze through and he hoisted the Gibson Cup. The women's Gibson went once again to Jessie McAleer. Although Jessie winning the Gibson for the sixth time is not a surprise to any who have had the pleasure of watching her ski, it is worthy of note that she won the SL race

overall, best-

20/25

ing

the entire field, including all the men! This is something that has happened only twice before in New England Masters history but something she managed to do no fewer than five times this season.

The first weekend of February found us on a trail called Flying Yankee at Ragged Mountain. We have been to Ragged a number of times, and our races there have always been well attended, probably due to its convenient location in the precise center of New Hampshire and Vermont, but we have never had the pleasure of racing on this trail because the conditions have not permitted it. This year we elected to go there a little later in the season and we hit the jackpot. The weather for the GS was perfect and the hill was an absolute ball. Everyone came through the finish with huge grin and a burning desire to go do it again. This was one of the best events of the entire Rockport GS Series, and in the future we will make sure to schedule it late enough to get this trail.

Another February highlight was the fondue party at Chez Henri in the village at Sugarbush. The races were fun, but the party was terrific! Henri has been serving fine French food and wine forever and his excitement over ski racing and ski racers is a thing of beauty. For a short while, in Henri's embrace,

we were all rock stars, the

Lisa Densmore (EA) racing SC (at Copper Mountain)



World Cup competitors of our fantasies.

The Eastern Regionals, sponsored generously by Skier's Edge, were once again held at perennial favorite Okemo Mountain, in central Vermont. Friday's SG could not have been better. The weather was perfect and the track held up remarkably well. Perhaps owing to the fact that is was a Molecule F Speed Series race, it attracted several folks from Rocky and one from Far West. The SL portion of the Super Combined was a reminder of just how much soft snow we had: the course didn't hold up as well as the SG and the younger classes were faced with a real luge run. Watching racers disappear in the ruts and then get launched through the air into the next turn, or not, did provide a great show for the spectators. By Saturday the weather had taken a typical New England turn. The organizers managed to eke out an SL on Saturday, but with dense fog blanketing the mountain from summit to base lodge on Sunday, and no reprieve in the forecast, they reluctantly had to call the scheduled GS on Sunday.

Mother Nature continued to be the story the following weekend, when we traveled to Burke Mountain for the Sise Cup Finals. Warm temperatures and a very snivelly forecast led to an early cancellation of Friday's GS, but with perserverance and a lot of hard work, we managed to race on Saturday, and not just a race but a GS and an SL. Conditions and terrain being what they were, we opted for a single full length run of each. It is noteworthy that, as happened last year, although Burke agreed to host our event, they were not able to offer us much in the way of help. So for the second time, NEMS had to step up and run the races without a local organization. Unlike last year, Laura Sullivan and her USCSA crew were not available, so our resourceful executive director rounded up a crew of potential future Masters racers and put on a great event. Although not our preferred method of running races, it did provide an opportunity to introduce ourselves and interact with several potential racers. It went quite well and we will most certainly see these people next year, hopefully a lot.

In what is fast becoming a new tradition, we once again ended the official Sise Cup Season with an awards banquet. The party was conveniently and capably hosted by Burke and we had a terrific meal with lots of awards and prizes. Jessie McAleer, skiing perhaps the best of her life, took the women's Sise Cup handily. She lost only a single race all season long and that made her the Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS Series Champion and the Sise SL Champion as well. The Men's overall Sise Cup went to Mark George, who just seems to keep getting better and better. With nine SL wins he easily captured the Sise SL title. The Men's Rockport Mortgage Corporation GS Series was the tightest overall race of the season. Rick Cesati started out quietly, finishing fifth in the first GS but just kept building steam all season. He won the last two GS races and the title.

The Tobin Award for outstanding contribution to Eastern Masters ski racing was awarded to George Merrill. A former U.S. team member, George is the founder of, and driving force behind, Artech, the premier supplier to ski racers at all levels. He is a strong supporter of the sport, and of New England and Eastern Masters racing in particular. His sponsorship, through Artech, has been generous and invaluable to us for many years.

The George Anderson Spirit of Masters Award, awarded to the NEMS competitor who exemplifies the spirit of Masters ski racing went to Katie George, for her participation, her willingness to lend a hand, her congeniality, her coat-carrying services and her sincere and never-fading smile.

All told, it was a good season. Our numbers were down a little but not more than might be expected due to the economy, the weather and a few personal things specific to an unusually large number of our members. Significantly, our vounger classes have shown growth. We successfully unveiled the online registration system known as skiracereg.com, to unanimous approval. And we introduced our new scoring system, which is a version of BART, one of only two scoring programs approved by USSA and the FIS. Given the unique and numerous requirements of our scoring, it took a little time to work out all the bugs, but we have successfully done so and we are very pleased with the system. We continue to glean a worthwhile number of starts from our presence at the Boston Ski Show, made possible by USSA. Our increased number of social activities has been very well received and helped entice at least two women to convert their temp memberships to full so they could join us for a second weekend.

By the way, maybe one of the up-

sides of all the snow we've had this season helped prepare the Eastern contingent for their excellent performance at Nationals, bringing home the Divisions Cup for the first time in too long and giving us a year of bragging rights! Congratulations to all the Eastern competitors!

As always, our series is made possible and enhanced by our sponsors. Our GS series has been generously sponsored by Rockport Mortgage Corporation. We wish to thank them most sincerely. Our enduring gratitude goes to Artech, for its generous and continued support. And we thank Swix, SkiChair.com, Denby, Smuttynose, Red Hook, and True Power for their special assistance this year.

Northern Division Masters



Rick Murphy, chair www.northernmasters.org Spring brings out the golf clubs, fly rods and bikes, but La Niña brought out the best in the Northern

Division winter. This season we were blessed with record-breaking snow throughout the region. Masters were confronted with the conundrum; slip the training course endlessly or ski powder: what would you do?

In spite of the fresh snow allure, we still got a lot of racing done. Our members joined forces with Intermountain and PNSA for a full season of gates. Our racers conducted themselves admirably at Jackson, Sun Valley, Big Sky, 49 Degrees N and Schweitzer with numerous podium appearances.

At Nationals, we were well represented with champions: Jim Ragan, 3rd overall class 8; Dennis Wilhelmsen, 3rd overall class 6; and Toby Chapman, 2nd overall class 2.

Training opportunities were plentiful, with full programs now established at Whitefish Mountain Resort, Big Sky and Bridger Bowl.

I am pleased to announce that Northern Division will have a new chairman for next year: Toby Chapman. Toby brings a passion for ski racing and a lifetime of experience to the job.

I want to thank everyone who helped me throughout my tenure, especially Dave Shappee, Fran Noel, Ron Matelich, Meri Stratton and Bill Skinner.

See you in the gates.



Rocky Mountain

Jennifer L. Kaufman, Vice President and Division Chair www.rmmskiracing.org

Rocky Mountain Masters wrapped up a very full 2011 season with our grand finale at Loveland on April 9th. The Hans Wolf Memorial included one run of SG, GS and SL—all held in one day! Superb execution by the Loveland race crew and numerous volunteers ensured that this event was one for the memory books. In keeping with RMM tradition, we ended a spectacular day of racing with a great party and a highly successful year-end fundraising raffle.



In total, RMM hosted over 20 races across all four disciplines, at venues around Colorado. Masters Nationals also returned to Colorado for the first time in a number of years and it was great to see so many Masters from around the country at Copper Mountain and Ski Cooper.

In regular season racing our overall award, known as the Pesman Pot, went to Jennifer Kaufman and Franz Fuchsberger, both of whom also captured our overall "sportage" award (age adjusted) known as the Dercum Cup. Fuxi rounded out the year by winning the Elite overall title, as well. For more comprehensive results, please see our website at www.rmmskiracing.org.

We had unprecedented success with the Sponsor-A-Race day program this year. We sold every race and already have a waiting list for next season's races. As we did not have the benefit of a title sponsor, race day sponsorship played a vital role in helping fund our events and post race parties. We are so thankful for our race sponsor support and hope to see it continue!

We are also grateful for the tireless efforts of race day administrator Debi Davis and our office manager Stacey Estelle—we could not do it without everything they do to keep us raceready.

The board has a busy summer in front of us to prepare for next year, and we continue to maintain a focus on improving and expanding participation. Our schedule should be posted by early fall, and we looking forward to seeing everyone on the slopes!

New York State Snow Masters Series

By Jack Eisenschmid, chair and Jim Spillane, co-chair www.nymasters.org

The 2011 NY Masters Series was another great season! We experienced one of the best seasons we've had in years. Throughout the year there was nice weather and great snow conditions for our 39th race season. This year we increased the number of races to 26 over 13 days! We once again had very strong turnouts at most of the races, and everyone who participated enjoyed finishing four race runs by 2:00, with more than enough time for free skiing and our always fun aprés awards party.

Like every season, we had terrific competition among the age classes as well as for the overall awards. For the men's overall title, it was once again Jim Thoman who claimed the Marshall Skiff cup, for the third time in four years. For the women, it was Barb Brumbaugh who took the overall women's Joan Skiff cup. Congratulations to Jim and Barb on a great season!

This year, we again had some great sponsors to help keep the NY Masters series going and who also provided some great prizes. Many thanks to Swix, Transpack, Mountainside Ski and Sports, Liberty Skis, Spyder, Smith, Rossingnol, Southtown Beverages, and Skier's Edge. Thank you all for your continued support! Also, a big thanks to all of the volunteers that help out with our series each week; Jim Spillane, co-chairman; Mark Sertl, treasurer; Laura Moats, scoring; Barb Brumbaugh, webmaster; Don Fella, banners; Ellen Miller, sponsors; Jennifer Frazer, Shelly Russell, Joie Komarmi, David Bennett, Joan Evans, Judy Vverberg, and

(Bill Gooch (RM)

the Beermeister, Marsh Rich! We can't run this series without your help!

New York Masters had a terrific showing at both the Eastern Regionals held at Okemo, as well as the Nationals held at Copper Mountain. We had five overall winners at the easterns, including Barb Settel for woman's class 8, Pepi Neubauer for men's class 9, Greg Sarkis for men's class 6, Lou Moore for men's class 3, and Jim Thoman for men's class 2. Both New York and New England Masters did a great job at the nationals taking back the overall trophy for 2011! New York again had a great showing. We had several racers with their classes in individual races including Barb Brumbaugh in the DH, Greg Sarkis in the GS, Jim Thoman in the SC, GS, and SL, and Pepi Neubauer dominated his class by winning all five races! Both Jim and Pepi were named to the 2112 Spyder National Masters Team! Congratulations Jim and Pepi!

Enjoy the summer and see you all for the 2012 season.

New York Masters 2011 Overall Standings Men

- 1. Jim Thoman
- 2. Greg Sarkis
- 3. Jim Spillane
- 4. Lou Moore
- 5. Doug Paul
- 6. Tim O'Donoghue
- 7. Cal Baker
- 8. Greg Kerl
- 9. Jack Eisenschmid
- 10. Eddie Linsler
- IO. Ludic Li

Women

- 1. Barb Brumbaugh
- 2. Marie-Eve Noel
- 3. Barb Settel
- 4. Laura Moats



EAP will make you fit and fast by next season Mark Wolcott



The off-season is the best time to get ready for next year's Masters Circuit. As a junior ski coach, racers often ask me, "Coach, what do I need to do to get faster by next season?"

We often look for the easier solutions like a new pair of race skis or a slick GS suit. However, I encourage my athletes to focus on their off-season conditioning to improve their race results. One of my former junior racers is an avid ballet dancer and her many years in the dance studio along with her on-snow training has helped her reach her goal of skiing for top ranked Dartmouth College. Conditioning is especially important for Masters racers to maintain overall fitness and prevent injury.

The key for any conditioning program is to find activities you actually enjoy. For example, I love cycling and waterskiing during the summer months, which provide great cross-training for alpine skiing. When putting together a conditioning program the three primary elements to focus on are E.A.P.

- Endurance
- Agility
- Power

While alpine ski racing is primarily an anaerobic sport, a typical race course that lasts for 50 seconds or more is equiva-

Class IV GS medalists

(Thunder Jalili)

lent to a middle distance runner in track. Therefore, it's imperative to have a good aerobic base. For example, I was recently coaching at a J1-2 slalom race and one of the coaches said "This race will be won or lost in these last fifteen gates." The bottom section of the course was fairly open and easy, however during the race it was obvious which racers were in

shape and attacked the bottom versus those who simply ran out of gas. As ski racers, we love to go fast, so long, slow distance running may not be your thing. The key is to find an aerobic activity you enjoy like spinning classes, elliptical machines, mountain biking, hiking, recreational soccer league, rollerblading, or any activity to build a good endurance base. Former Austrian star Hermann Maier was an avid cyclist who even rode a stage in the Tour de France and credits his success to logging thousands of miles on his bike. One investment I recommend is a heart rate monitor, so you can find your optimal training zone and get the most out of your workout. If you need more motivation, remember that aerobic conditioning will help shed those unwanted pounds so you can fit into that GS suit next winter.

While you may spend your summers competing in triathlons or training for a marathon, don't forget to add some agility and balance exercises into your workout. Running an SL course or making a tough transition in an SG requires excellent agility and balance. So it's important to add some lateral movements to your routine. Many of our favorite sports like tennis, racquetball, basketball, soccer, and skating incorporate lateral movements. One of my favorite exercises is skipping

> rope. When traveling on a business trip, it's easy to pack a jump rope and pair of running shoes for your daily workout. During the sum

mer, I love waterskiing as it includes speed, agility, balance, endurance, and its fun. Again, the key is to find activities you enjoy!

Finally, one of the most important aspects of alpine ski racing is power. We need power for explosive starts, skating on flat sections, handling that strong left footer under gate on a steep headwall, and holding a tuck over those big rollers. It's easy to add power to any workout. For example, if you're going for a bike ride, challenge yourself by adding a few hills. Just start with one and work up to more hills over time. When traveling on business, you can scout around the area near the hotel to find a good place to run. If there is a school or college nearby, run over to the campus, do some stadium steps and run back to the hotel, all before that 7:30 am breakfast meeting. If you're going to the gym, then add some strength training to your routine. One of the best exercises for powerful starts are dips on a parallel bar. Most fitness centers have dip stations with weight assistance so you can build up those triceps muscles. As ski racers, we want to build our "core," by strengthening the abdominal and lower back muscles. If you're not comfortable with weight training, then ask a personal trainer to help you design a balanced strength training program for alpine skiing.

In summary, whatever exercises you choose, you'll be more likely to stick with an off-season conditioning program if you're doing activities you actually enjoy. Remember, exercise should be a fun part of your daily routine and is just as important for Masters as it is for World Cup

> competitors. If you commit to a consistent off-season conditioning program, you'll eventually see the results on the scoreboard. See you on the race course!

> > Mark Wolcott is a Masters racer, junior race coach, and conditioning coordinator for the Hunt Hollow Race Team in upstate New York.

The Alpine Masters Series newsletter is produced by Jim Hayes in Salt Lake City. If your endeavors could use graphic design help, including logos, brochures, advertising, web art, illustration, packaging, etc., call (801) 485-8349, or email LogoAgogo@comcast.net. See a full portfolio at www.CenozoicDesign.com.

Michael Walsh

Ara Papazian

Intermountain Masters Amy Lanzel, chair www.intermountain-

masters.org 2011 proved to be a very interesting year for the Intermountain

Masters. The quality of races and venues was the best ever. We managed to have a full race schedule with lots of great parties and attendance. The recession continues to hit us in the pocketbook, so we are instituting a variety of new programs next year to provide folks a chance to "be the hero" and sponsor one or more of our races. We will also continue to pursue the business sponsors, who are our lifeline.

New this past year, we introduced online race registration, a Facebook page and a newly designed web page; check us out at www.intermountainmasters.org. Our signature race of the year, the Lor-



tiz/Pendleton Cup, was a huge success, with the largest attendance ever. It was also the ski race where we honored our firstever scholarship recipients, Scotty and Reese McGrath. The \$2,000 will go along way in promoting citizenship and leadership within the ski racing community. It is also our goal to keep those athletes that might not otherwise have a chance without our financial support involved in ski racing. We believe keeping them involved keeps them focused, teaches discipline and helps them to be successful in the rest of their life endeavors.

Next year, we look forward to another great season, and will be hosting the Nationals at Park City Mountain Resort. Let's hope the race department is up to the task. If you're in Park City the third week of June, come join us for our first-ever Masters golf tournament. Look for more info on our web site, as we get closer to the date.

Get motivated and stay in shape this summer—next ski season is just around the corner and it's going to be the best ever!

A big thank you to our sponsors! Jans, Atomic, Heiden Davidson Orthopedics, EZPAknutrition.com, Cofer Chiropractic, and Formula One Sports in Sun Valley have all helped to make our season possible.

Far West

By Mark Mirviss www.FarWestMasters.org

Far West skiing this year was dominated by one individual: Snow. The powder hounds had a great year at the expense of seven races lost to snow (and one to wind). However, California really needed the water that comes with the snow, so we won't really complain.

Despite all of the snow, we managed to have a week of sunshine and great weather that allowed us to have a perfect week of racing for Regionals at Mammoth Mountain.

We unfortunately lost two of our racers to illness this season, so please take a moment to remember the passing of David Smith and Rick Conrado. Please also remember that while winning races is fun, in the grand scheme of things, it's nothing to really lose sleep over.

Our division placed second at Nationals this year—with some of our key point gatherers being on the injured reserve list. The Far West was led in Nationals by Pierre Jeangirard, M7; Ara Papajian, M4; and Matt Savage, M1; who all won their respective classes. Other podium finishers were Ingrid Braun, Mike Braun, Jim Dugan, Marietta Frinell, Sandy Hogan, Deb Lewis, Marcie Pettigrew, and Buck Thys.

As we write this article (on a day we lost two downhill races to more snow), we are beginning our season finale and end of the year banquet. The end of the year banquet is also a big fundraiser for the Far West Scholarship Fund. Last year, one of our racers, Jeff Wattenmaker, bequeathed to the Scholarship Fund \$100,000 to be spent on collegiate scholarships for our junior athletes in the Far West division. While we never would have forgotten Jeff, this generous gift will ensure that he lives on in the hearts and minds of the next generation of Masters racers.

In closing, we have just found out that the International Criterium will be held in the Far West at Mammoth Mountain next season. So please come visit us and all of our friends from around the world next year.



22nd Masters Summer Fun Nationals July 22–24, 2011 • www.SummerFunNationals.com



Mt Hood is action central for the ski industry during the summer. Race camps and ski reps with all next season gear arrive from all over the world. Masters Summer Fun Nationals in right in the middle of it all. This is THE time and place to be to get the scoop on next season's gear as well as try it out at the Summer Fun Nationals. Half way between last season and next, it is time to remind those old muscles what to do on skis. Sign up for a few days of race camp prior to the race then race on the weekend. Summer Heaven for a ski racer! Bring your younger racers to race with you for a fun family affair.

Friday, July 22 Racer Welcome and Check-in Saturday, July 23 Giant Slalom Sunday, July 24 Slalom

2010 SUPERSEEDS Slalom

Scott Veenis , IM Tim Hill, PN Ryan Donovan, AK Paul Koetke, PN Dennis Wilhelmsen, NO Willy Scroggins, PN Franz Fuchsberger, RM Jesse Scroggins, PN Bill Skinner, IM Cal Baker, NY

Giant Slalom

Ryan Donovan, AK Tim Hill, PN Franz Fuchsberger, RM Willy Scroggins, PN Dennis Wilhelmsen, NO Paul Koetke, PN Paul Caruso, RM Rob Cravens, PN Joseph Mucci, PN Knut Olberg, PN





Paul Koetke



Scotty Veenis

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2011 USSA Masters Summer Fun Nationals • Timberline/Palmer Glacier, Oregon • July 22–24, 2011

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Events	Cost	Enclosed	T-shirt Size:	
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Sat only/GS, BBQ	\$85			Meri@SummerFunNationals.com
Sun only/SL	\$55			(541) 490-5888
Late Fee if received after 7/14	\$20			Entries/check payable to: Masters Summer Fun Race
Guest BBQ	\$35			3624 Lois Dr.,
TOTAL PAID		\$		Hood River, OR 97031



The VISION of the USSA Alpine Masters is to provide adult skiers with a lifelong opportunity to enjoy the challenges and rewards of alpine ski racing. **The MISSION** of the USSA Alpine Masters is to make this vision a reality by developing, promoting, organizing and coordinating the highest level of alpine ski racing throughout snow country in the United States and internationally, and to fulfill our passion for and love of nature, the outdoors, mountains, freedom, self-challenge and accomplishment.

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2012 Major Events If you ever have a good year, 2012 would be the time to have it.

Skier's Edge Masters Nationals Park City, Utah, March 19–23 SC/SG/GS/SL

Skier's Edge Western Championships Vail, Colorado, February 2–4 SC/SG/GS/SL

Eastern: TBA

Skier's Edge National Downhill Ski Cooper, Colorado, Mar. 10–11 3DH

2012 FIS Masters World Criterium (proposed) Mammoth Mtn, California, Mar. 26–31 SG/GS/GS/SL